VERSION
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AVERILL FAMILY

by Norma Hansen Zaniewski

Averill
Family

The first William Averill, raised at Ash, Kent, by Farmingham near London, married Abigail Hinton at Chipping Norton, Oxford, in 1618.

So much has already written about the Averill Family that this compiler's first impulse was to simply direct anyone interested to one of the printed genealogies, especially the beautiful and scholarly one by Clara Avery. But then I think of my beloved Grandpa, Wesley White, and remember how tenderly he spoke of his mother, Jane Averill. I want my grandchildren to know about her, too. He spoke, also, of his grandparents, Norman Chancellor and Martha Averill, and of going to visit them on a neighboring farm when he was a boy. They were always delighted to see him, and proudly nicknamed him their "Silver Dollar."

As I ponder, I realize that we do, indeed, have many bits of information not in any of the genealogies. That is especially true for the century commencing about 1800. This little account is not meant to take the place of anything. There is no point in repeating, in great detail, the wealth of information in all the cited sources, which contain the contents of wills, historic documents, etc. To learn all the details, the reader is urged to consult the references. This is a narrative of our direct Averill ancestors and their immediate families, a kind of "getting to know" those individuals who are part of our own flesh and blood.

About that Averill Coat of Arms:

They are described thus - "Azure, a cross ermine fleury or, in dexter point a buck's head cabossed argent, attired of the third."* Doesn't that sound pretty?

People are fascinated by coats of arms, though scarcely anyone is officially entitled to use them. Being descended from a noble family is not enough. The custom is an ancient one--noble families had crests even in the days of King Arthur. Under rules of primogeniture, the oldest surviving son inherited the title, the arms, the lion's share of the real estate and most of the other wealth. If they were lucky, younger sons received an education or learned a trade. (In later years it was not unheard of for a rich country squire to be illiterate whilst his younger brother used his education to great advantage, but that is another story.) It was customary for daughters to receive doweries--managed, of course, by their husbands!

Great stress was placed on keeping a gentle family line "pure" and intact, and little on individual rights. But had estates been divided equally, assets would have quickly died out and the title lost. But the feudal lord shared in the sacrifices, too--he could even lose his life in battle. One should not forget that titles and other great privileges were conferred by the monarch, who had the right to demand that the lord provide his serfs and servants as soldiers, perhaps leading them into battle on a big war horse, wearing a heavy coat of armour emblazoned with his own coat of arms. After all, that is how coats of arms got started in the first place.

References cited on the following page.

Our immigrant ancestor, William Averill, and at least three generations before him, owned real estate and obviously were not poor as long as they were in England. They were probably not quite considered gentry, either, in the sense of being entitled to use a coat of arms. However, some historiographers nowadays strongly suspect they sprang from an Avery family found in Oxfordshire during the reign of Edward I, which would be 1274-1307 A.D. That family's coat of arms is the one depicted. It would be a simple matter for descendants to spread the mere 60 or 70 miles from Oxfordshire to the community in Kent, quite near London, where William was said to have grown up. Both places were on the Thames River, regularly navigated by small boats. Besides, William and Abigail were married in Oxfordshire!

In 1900, genealogist Dow speculated the Averills originated in a place called Broadway, Worcestershire, located in a little projection near the Cotswolds. That is not very far away from Oxfordshire, and some of the same elements were used in that family's coat of arms. Could be it is another branch of the same stock.

Before proceeding, I must confess to being very leery about something. Not about the history of the Averill family once they got to America, for that seems to have been pretty well proved. My problem is about whether the English relatives presented in the 1906 book written by Clara Avery really are those of our William. Maybe there is something in print which I have missed. I will go ahead and write this anyway, and add a correction if I find more data someday. She employed and accepted the conclusions of a man who was considered to be at the top of his field in English genealogical research. But she agonized, saying that to prove the relationships beyond a doubt, the record of William and Abigail's marriage needed to be found. She stated that some of her conclusions could change, based on that information.

It looks like they were looking in the wrong place, and in the wrong time frame. The most authoritative book on New England marriages, published in 1985, does give the date and place of their marriage, and shows the couple must have been about 15 years older than she supposed. The wills, court, and church documents presented seem to indicate that William and his brother, Michael, were minors at a period in time when our couple had already been married a few years. That William inherited some property from his father and uncle, which could have paid for the ocean voyage.

"General Armory" by Burke
"English Social History" - G.M. Trevelyan p.125
"American Families" p.202, compiled & published by American Historical Society, N.Y.C. (tells about the Averill Arms)
"The Averell-Averill-Avery Family" - Clara A. Avery, 1906
"William Averill of Ipswich and Some of His Descendants" - George Francis Dow, Essex Inst. 4:9, Sep 1900.
"New England Marriages Prior to 1700" - Clarence Almon Torrey, 1985

The ancestors proposed in the book were:

Thomas Averill, great grandfather, of Ridley, Kent, England, who died in 1556. He had son

Robert Averill, grandfather, buried at Ash, Kent (will 1637) who had three sons, Nicholas, Robert, and Geoffrey, in order

Nicholas Averill, father, was born in 1552, married Dorcas, mother. He died in 1631. This couple had two sons, William (oldest) and Michael.

Nicholas willed homesteads to both his boys besides providing for his widow. Uncle Geoffrey Averill of Stansted, Kent, in his will of 10 Jan 1631, left lands to his brother, Robert, unless Robert had no issue; the land was to go to William unless he should die first, in which event the land would go to Michael.

Uncle Robert, of Hartley, Kent, died in 1637, also leaving land to the boys. It looks as though neither uncle left living issue. The only problem with all this, is that the wills said they were to receive the legacies at maturity. Clara Avery studied all the wording, and came up with the idea that William was born about 1611 or so.

On the other hand, does it make very much sense for Nicholas Averill, who was born in 1552, to have his first child in 1611, when he was 59 years old, and his second a few years later when he was in his 60's? Perhaps that business about the boys being minors was read incorrectly or misinterpreted.

Maybe those people were William's ancestors, after all, They sound like nice people. It does, however, leave open the question of why the Averills were so poor once they got to Ipswich.

* * *

There are many thousands of Averills, scattered over most of this country, all said to have descended from one couple, William Averill (?1595-1652) and Abigail Hynton (modern spelling Hinton?)(?1600-1655) who were married 26 Nov. 1618 at Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, England, several miles northwest of London.

The date they and their oldest children arrived in Ipswich is not known. They were there on 2 Mar. 1637, when he received a small grant of land. His little house was standing there in 1638. He was made a commoner in 1641, but there is no record of his ever becoming a freeman. One had to be a member of the parish to be made a freeman, and there is no record of either Abigail or William ever joining the church, though everybody in the community was forced to attend, whether they belonged or not. While church was going on, boys and young men were assigned to watch out for Indians, and in 1649 two of their sons were cited for "defect in watching."

There is speculation, based on extremely early family tradition, that they may have come to this continent in the ship, "The Angel Gabriel, with the Cogswell family and lost what few possessions they owned in the August, 1635, shipwreck off the coast of Maine, for they were very poor.

Besides the house lot at Ipswich Chebacco, they had a few acres of planting ground on the far side of Muddy River, and grazing rights for their few animals. In 1646 he was appointed to keep the community's herd of goats, and he signed the contract. In most of the records he was called Avery, but the spelling seemed to vary with the mood--Avral, Aurill, and probably mostly Averell. Obviously, our ancestors were not as concerned about spelling as we are.

When he died in 1652, his property was appraised at L50, and was comprised mainly of the following: "one fether bed, one other bed," two pairs of sheets, two bolsters, 3 pillows, 2 blankets, 1 coverlid, 1 bedstead, 2 chests, a meager amount of clothing, a few pots and kettles, a tub, 2 pails, a few books, a warming pan, a corslett, and 4 pewter platters for the nine of them. A hundred or so years ago a writer on early Ipswich wrote of him, in contrast with some wealthy persons in the same community, "He was not desperately poor, but his circumstances were somewhat narrow. His family numbered nine souls, yet they had but one bedstead, andbeds and bedding only adequate for this, and four pewter platters for the daily meals. How these nine Averills ate and slept would be an entertaining story, and a reproof to much discontent."

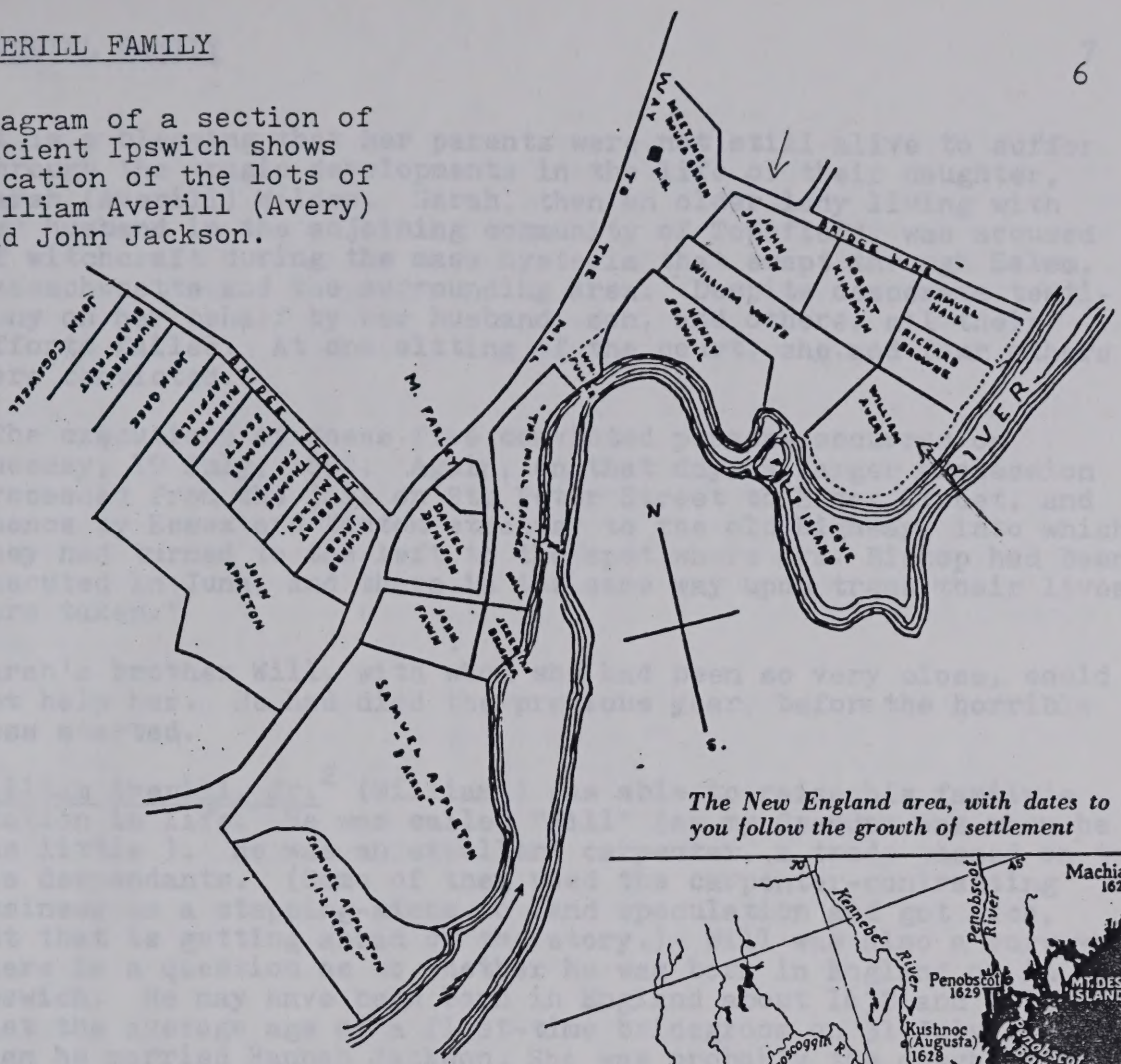
It should be noted that in spite of everything this was a literate family. There were books in the inventory, and they did sign documents. Inventory of the goods of Abigail Averill, widow of William, taken a little later and attested to also by son William, Jr., showed her with a list of goods about L77 and debts of L13. It listed all the animals and the lots for farming. Among her possessions was an hourglass. Abigail died three years later, in 1655.

Children of William and Abigail (Hinton) Averill:

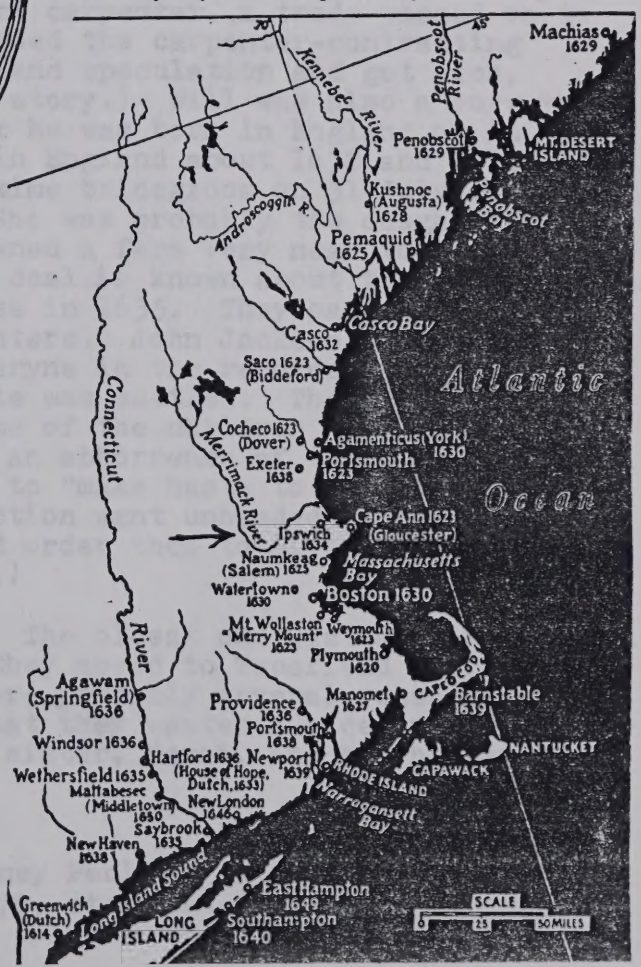
Three whose names are not known, living in 1652.		
Thomas (?1630-1714)	m. 8 Dec 1657	Frances Collings, moved to York, ME
+William,Jr (?1632 or 1637-1691)	31 Jul 1661	Hannah Jackson. more about this couple follows.
John (16 - ?)		Living in Ipswich in 1656
Sarah (?1627-1692)	23 Nov 1663	John Wilds (16 ?-1705)as second wife She was executed for witchcraft

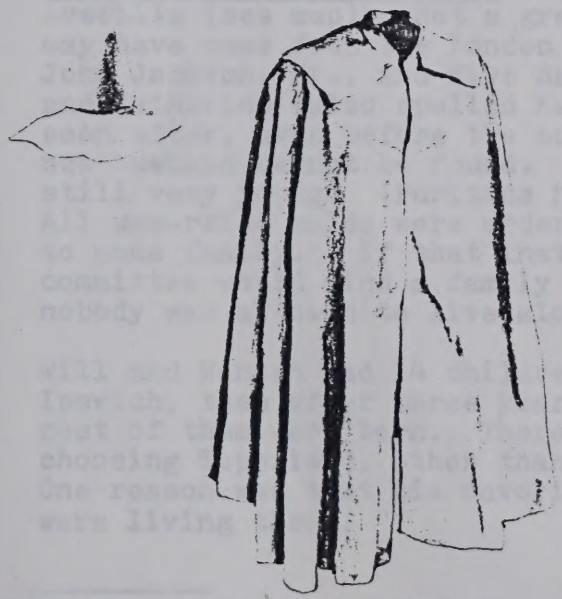
"Pope's Pioneers"
"Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony" pp 32-3
"Court Records of Salem Witchcraft" printed 1864

Diagram of a section of ancient Ipswich shows location of the lots of William Averill (Avery) and John Jackson.

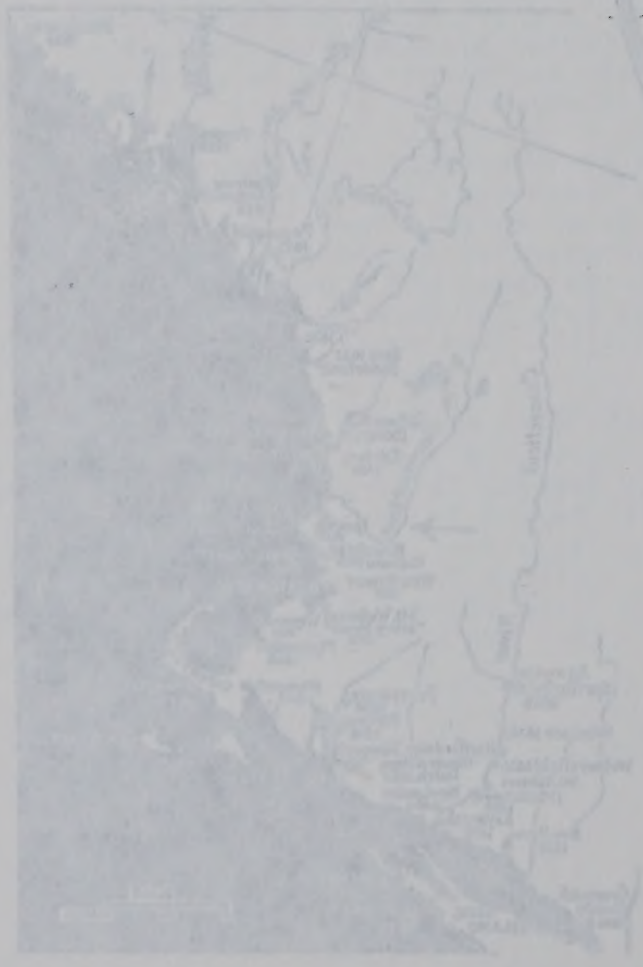


The New England area, with dates to help you follow the growth of settlement





Steeple hats and "sadd colors" were typical of Puritan dress ways. Both men and women in New England did actually wear the broad-brimmed steeple hats of legend, historical revisionists notwithstanding.



It is a blessing that her parents were not still alive to suffer through the tragic developments in the life of their daughter, Sarah (Averill) Wildes. Sarah, then an older lady living with her husband in the adjoining community of Topsfield, was accused of witchcraft during the mass hysteria that swept through Salem, Massachusetts and the surrounding area. Despite desperate testimony on her behalf by her husband, son, and others, all their efforts failed. At one sitting of the court, she and four others were convicted.

"The executions of these five convicted persons occurred on Tuesday, 19 July, 1692. Again, on that day, a larger procession proceeded from the jail on St. Peter Street to Essex Street, and thence by Essex and Boston streets, to the old highway, into which they had turned to the left to the spot where Mrs. Bishop had been executed in June; and there in the same way upon trees their lives were taken."

Sarah's brother Will, with whom she had been so very close, could not help her. He had died the previous year, before the horrible mess started.

William Averill, Jr.[2] (William[1]) was able to raise his family's station in life. He was called "Will" (as my Grandpa was when he was little). He was an excellent carpenter, a trade passed on to his descendants. (Some of them used the carpenter-contracting business as a stepping-stone to land speculation and got rich, but that is getting ahead of the story.) Will was also a surveyor. There is a question as to whether he was born in England or in Ipswich. He may have been born in England about 1632 and a little past the average age of a first-time bridegroom on 31 July 1661, when he married Hannah Jackson. She was probably the daughter of John and Catherine Jackson who owned a farm very near to the Averills (see map). Not a great deal is known about the Jacksons, who may have come from the London area in 1635. They had only one son, John Jackson, Jr., and five daughters. John Jackson died in 1648 and Catherine (also spelled Katheryne in the records) remarried soon after, even before the estate was settled. The name of her new husband cannot be found. Some of the children were undoubtedly still very young. (Puritans had an abhorrence of the single life. All unmarried males were ordered to "make haste to attach yourself to some family." If that instruction went unheeded, a church committee would find a family and order them to live there, for nobody was allowed to live alone.)

Will and Hannah had 14 children. The oldest one was born in Ipswich, then after three years they moved to Topsfield where the rest of them were born. There were probably several reasons for choosing Topsfield, other than that they wanted a nicer place. One reason was that his favorite sister, Sarah, and her husband were living there.

"History of Salem" Vol 3:22 - Sidney Perley
"The Devil in Massachusetts" p. 170, etc - M.L. Starkey

Will and Hannah purchased a nice home with several outbuildings on a 100-acre farm. A depression marking the cellar of that home was still visible around 1900, at which time the location was near Springville, Massachusetts. Many of their sons and daughters grew up and settled nearby in a cluster of Averill families. This family and their children were so intelligent and well-read for those times that the area became locally called, "The Colleges." That appellation hung on to that area for a few generations.

Clara Avery suspected Will and Hannah, as well as their parents, the original immigrants, of being Quakers. Though she could not prove it, she gave some plausible arguments including the fact that neither couple joined the church, and that their children did not do so until many years later. If she is correct it is rather amazing, for Massachusetts Puritans usually drove Quakers out in short order. Instances of cutting out the tongues of "Quaker Ranters" were not unknown. If these people were Quakers, they must have kept it quiet.

The oldest son, William III, the only one born in Ipswich before they moved to Topsfield, might have been the family "black sheep" in a sense, for he appears to have had a little problem with alcohol which brought him to the attention of the authorities. He had a large family anyway. He had the job of sweeping the church and digging graves.

Will died 23 Apr 1691. Hannah was still living in 1735, with the family in (?Preston) Connecticut, and was undoubtedly in her nineties when she died.

Children of Will and Hannah (Jackson) Averill:

William	b. 1 May 1662	m. ca 1688	Mary____ (16 -1729)
Nathaniel	13 Oct 1664	31 Dec 1698	Sarah Howlett (16 -1729)
		ca 1730	Lydia French
John	1 Jan 1666/7		Anne Greensleet
Job	1 Jan 1666/7		Susanna Brown
Hannah	18 Dec 1667		died unmarried 14 May 1737
Ebenezer	14 Oct 1669	30 Nov 1687	Susanna Hovey (16 -1699)
		3 Dec 1700	Mehitable Foster (1675-17 ?)
Isaac	26 Jan 1672		died 11 Jun 1680, age 8
Thomas	9 Dec 1672	29 Nov 1712	Abigail Cogswell
Abigail	3 Mar 1674	9 Jul 1699	Jonathan Bishop
Ezechiel	24 Jul 1675		died young?
Paul	21 Jun 1677	27 Mar 1706	Sarah Andrews (1685-1732)
		3 Feb 1637	Mary Simonds, widow (went to CT)
Silas	1 May 1679		died young?
+Isaac	10 Nov 1680	16 May 1709	Esther Walker - in Rehoboth
Mary	168?	16 Feb 1710	Silas Titus - in Rehoboth

Isaac Averill[3] (William[2] William[1]) the 13th of 14 children, was born 10 Nov 1680 in Topsfield, Essex County, Massachusetts. But to show how badly facts can get twisted in only a few generations, a descendant, Samuel Johnson Averill, shared the belief of other Connecticut Averills around 1850, when he compiled, "a Record of the Averills," stating that his great-grandfather, Isaac Averill, was one of three brothers who emigrated to this country from Milford Haven, Wales. To make matters worse, a well-known Connecticut family historian used that information in a book which is still being consulted nationally, to this day.*

The story sounds fantastic, but close examination of the facts will show where the idea must have come from. The Cogswell family, with whom the Averills had by then intermarried quite a few times, did come over in the ship, "The Angel Gabriel," which set sail in Bristol, part of a convoy of five ships which had to lay over in Milford Haven, Wales, for several days before they were able to cross the Atlantic. Also, there remains the unconfirmed suspicion that the Averills may have come over in that same ship. If so, Isaac's grandfather, William, did come from Wales in a manner of speaking. Coincidentally, Isaac's wife's grandfather was a Welshman, a genuine Welshman from Swansea, Glamorganshire.

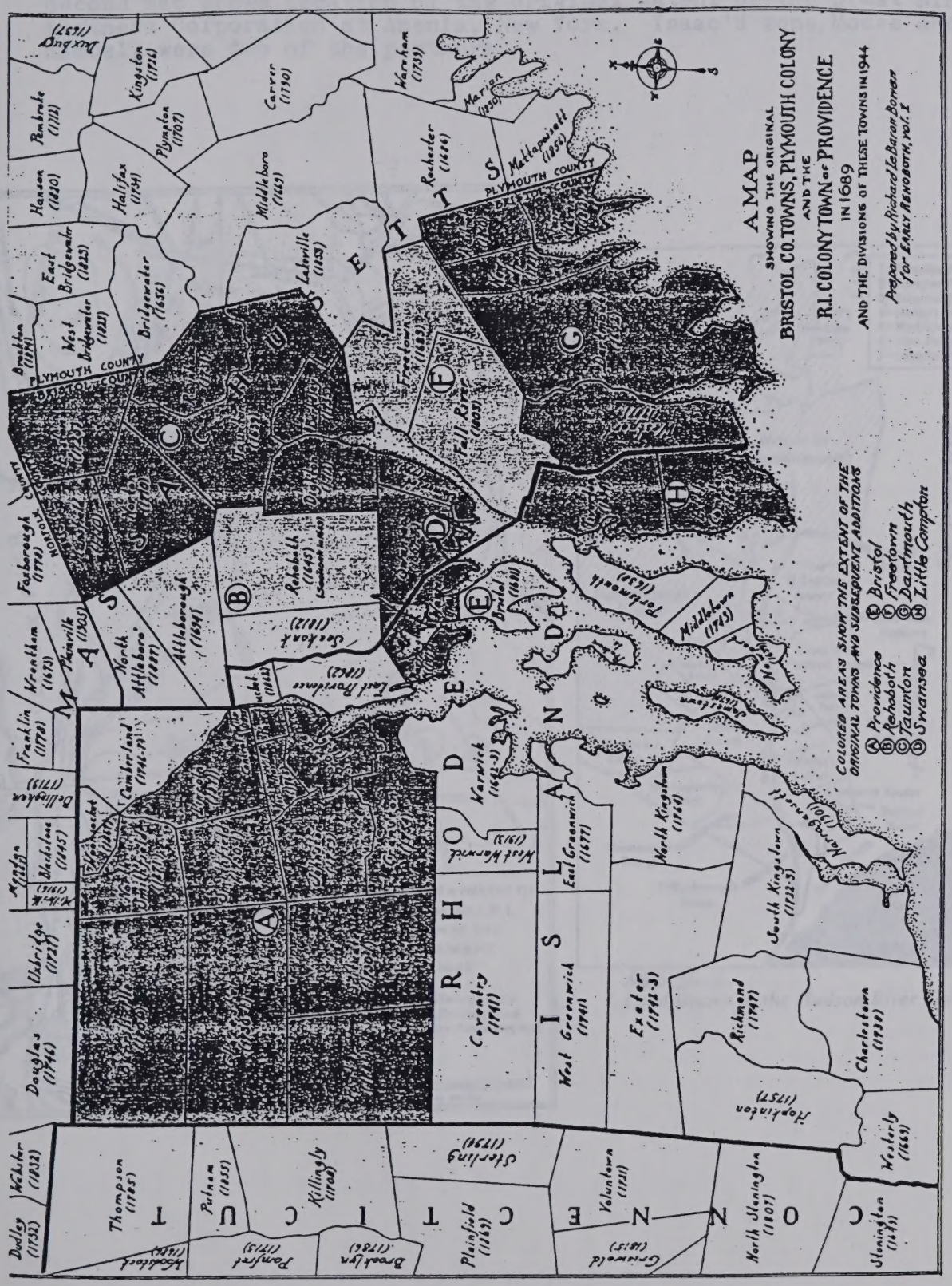
On 16 May, 1709, in Rehoboth, Bristol County, MA, Isaac Averill married Esther Walker, daughter of Phillip, Jr., and Mary (Bowen) Walker, of that town. Richard Bowen, Jr. and Sr. were both born in Wales, as was her grandmother, Ann Born Bowen. Esther was born 21 Dec. 1688 in Rehoboth. Isaac had moved from Topsfield to Preston, CT, to join his brother, Thomas, in about 1703 or 4; but he is also said to have been in Rehoboth when he married and until his son, Samuel, was born, and to have had a nephew, Jabez, with him. Sister, Mary, was obviously there also, because she married in Rehoboth the year after he did.

Isaac is called, "an ingenious carpenter," and he framed the largest meeting house of his time, which was located in Providence, Rhode Island. He soon moved back to Preston, taking Esther and the children. They were members of the Second Congregational Church of Preston. He was chosen Lister Dec 1714, Tithingman 1724, Constable and Justice of the Peace both 1722, Granery Man 1718, in addition to his regular occupation.

One of the very earliest records of Kent in far western Connecticut says that their son, Daniel Averill, purchased land from the Indian Chief Chere Waramaug, 100 acres, more or less, on 20 July 1749. That is when their records begin, but he must have made some purchases as early as 1744. In 1746, Isaac, Esther, and their grown children moved there to join him, and named the settlement New Preston. Daniel sold some acreage to Edward Cogswell on 18 Ja.1848 where the Cogswells established iron works and homes.

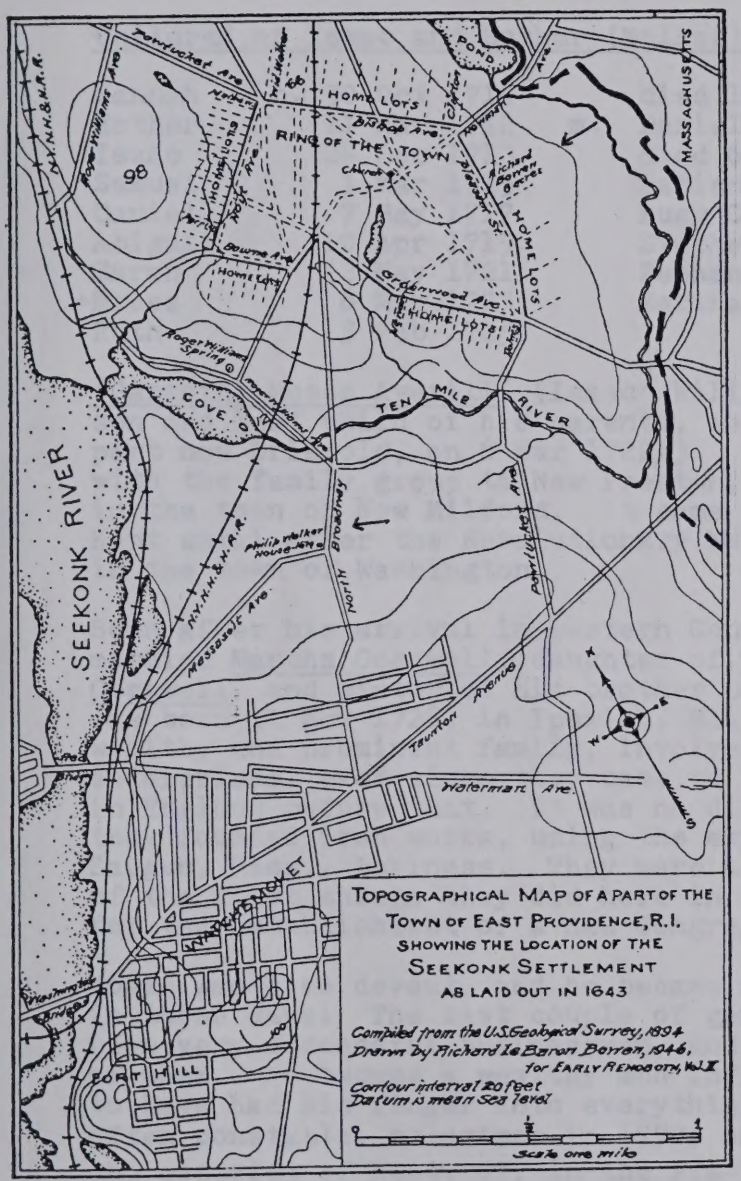
"History of Ancient Woodbury, CT" -Cothren
"Plymouth Colony Walkers" - JBR Walker
"Early Rehoboth" 4 Vols - RL Bowen
"Abstracts of Bristol Co. MA Probate Records" - HLP Rounds

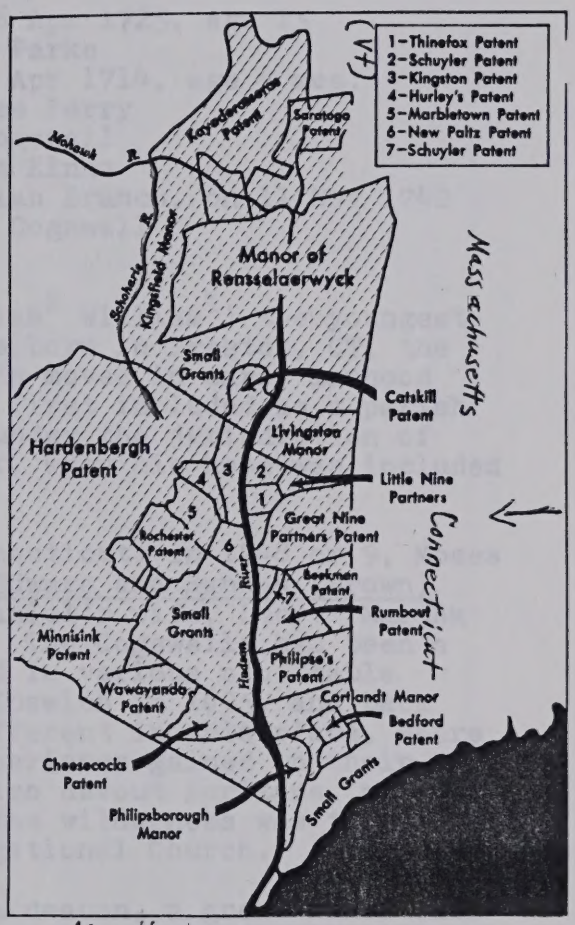
Isaac Averill lived in Preston, CT (called Griswold on map, see arrow). He framed the largest meeting house of his time in Providence, RI. He married Esther Walker who lived in Rehoboth (called East Providence on the map due to later boundary changes).


A MAP
SHOWING THE ORIGINAL
BRISTOL CO. TOWNS, PLYMOUTH COLONY
AND THE
R.I. COLONY TOWN of PROVIDENCE
IN 1689
AND THE DIVISIONS OF THESE TOWNS IN 1944
Prepared by Richard LeBaron Bowen for EARLY REHOBOTH, vol. I
COLORED AREAS SHOW THE EXTENT OF THE ORIGINAL TOWNS AND SUBSEQUENT ADDITIONS
A Providence
B Rehoboth
C Taunton
D Swansea
E Bristol
F Freetown
G Dartmouth
H Little Compton
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
BRISTOL COUNTY
NORFOLK COUNTY
PROVIDENCE COUNTY
KENT COUNTY
WASHINGTON COUNTY
NEWPORT COUNTY
MASSACHUSETTS
RHODE ISLAND
CONNECTICUT
Rehoboth (1645)
Swansea (1667)
Taunton (1639)
Freetown (1683)
Fall River (1803)
Bristol (1681)
Warren (1747)
Barrington (1747)
Seekonk (1812)
East Providence (1862)
Pawtucket (1828)
Cumberland (1746-7)
Central Falls (1895)
Lincoln (1871)
Smithfield (1730)
Johnston (1759)
North Providence (1765)
Cranston (1754)
Warwick (1643-3)
West Warwick (1913)
East Greenwich (1677)
North Kingstown (1744)
South Kingstown (1722-3)
Narragansett (1901)
Jamestown (1901)
Newport (1703)
Middletown (1743)
Portsmouth (1638)
Tiverton (1694)
Little Compton (1682)
Westerly (1669)
Charlestown (1738)
Richmond (1747)
Hopkinton (1757)
Exeter (1742-3)
West Greenwich (1741)
Coventry (1741)
Foster (1781)
Scituate (1730)
Glocester (1731)
North Smithfield (1871)
Woonsocket (1867)
Burrillville (1806)
Cumberland (1746-7)
Lincoln (1871)
Central Falls (1895)
Pawtucket (1828)
East Providence (1862)
Seekonk (1812)
North Attleboro (1887)
Attleborough (1694)
Plainville (1905)
Wrentham (1673)
Franklin (1778)
Foxborough (1778)
Sharon (1765)
Canton (1797)
Stoughton (1726)
Randolph (1793)
Milton (1662)
Dedham (1636)
Needham (1711)
Newton (1688)
Brookline (1705)
Boston (1630)
Roxbury (1630)
Dorchester (1630)
Quincy (1792)
Braintree (1640)
Weymouth (1635)
Abington (1712)
Rockland (1874)
Hingham (1635)
Cohasset (1792)
Scituate (1636)
Marshfield (1640)
Duxbury (1637)
Pembroke (1712)
Kingston (1726)
Plymouth (1620)
Carver (1790)
Halifax (1734)
Hanson (1820)
Middleboro (1669)
Lakeville (1853)
Rochester (1686)
Marion (1852)
Mattapoisett (1857)
Wareham (1739)
Plympton (1707)
Rehoboth (1645)
East Bridgewater (1823)
West Bridgewater (1822)
Bridgewater (1656)
Brockton (1874)
Easton (1725)
Norton (1711)
Taunton (1639)
Berkley (1735)
Dighton (1712)
Somerset (1790)
Fall River (1803)
Freetown (1683)
Swansea (1667)
Rehoboth (1645)
Seekonk (1812)
East Providence (1862)
Barrington (1747)
Warren (1747)
Bristol (1681)
Portsmouth (1638)
Middletown (1743)
Newport (1703)
Jamestown (1901)
Narragansett (1901)
North Kingstown (1744)
South Kingstown (1722-3)
Charlestown (1738)
Richmond (1747)
Hopkinton (1757)
Westerly (1669)
Exeter (1742-3)
West Greenwich (1741)
Coventry (1741)
West Warwick (1913)
East Greenwich (1677)
Warwick (1643-3)
Cranston (1754)
North Providence (1765)
Johnston (1759)
Smithfield (1730)
North Smithfield (1871)
Woonsocket (1867)
Burrillville (1806)
Glocester (1731)
Foster (1781)
Scituate (1730

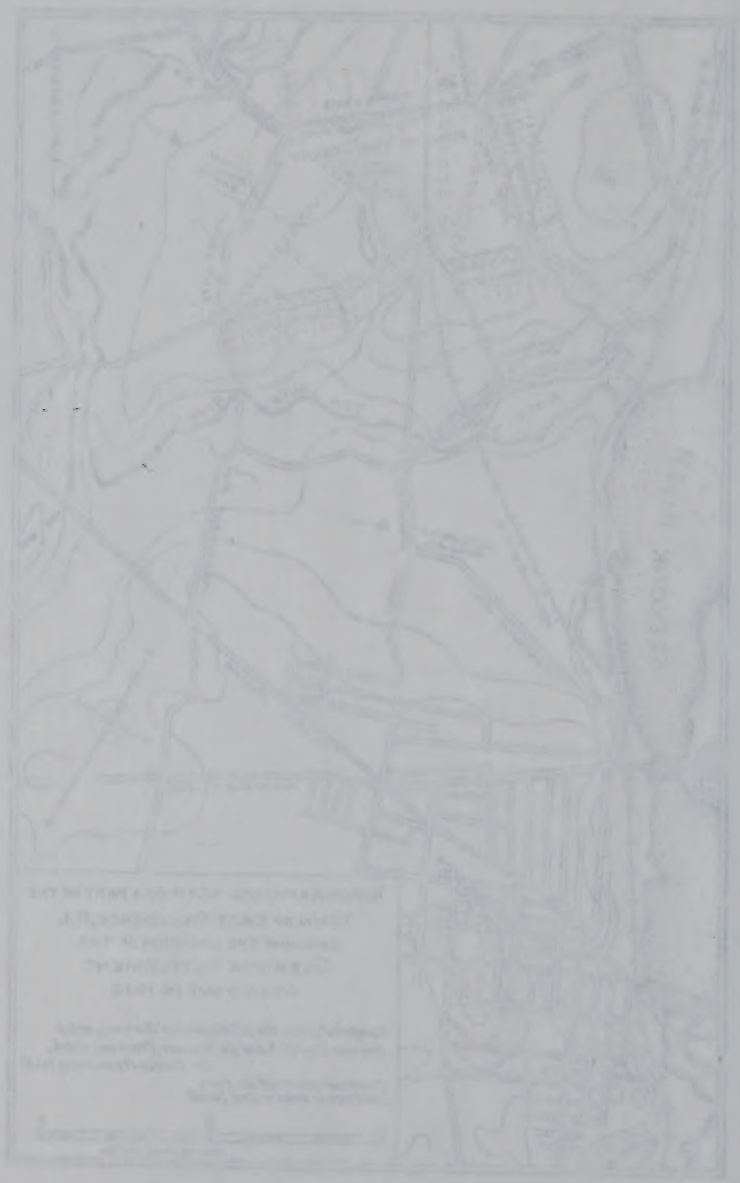
First map shows the home lots of Esther (Walker) Averill's father and grandfather, Philip Walker, Jr., and Richard Bowen. These are actually estates of well-to-do families--notice how much smaller the average sized lots are.

Second map shows location of the original patent of the Great Nine Partners Corporation at Amenia, New York. Isaac's sons, Moses and Samuel, were two of the partners.





New York
Land Grants in the Hudson River Valley



When Isaac and Esther and the others moved to Western Connecticut in 1746, he was already 66 years old--a little old, in those days, to set about clearing out lands just acquired in the wilderness from the Indians to start one's own homestead. They lived with their son, Samuel, and his family. They are buried in a private Averill cemetery in the area, but the dates of their deaths not now known.

The section of Preston, CT, where at least part of their children were born is now called Griswold. If they were not all born there, at least they are all registered there.

Children of Isaac and Esther (Walker) Averill:

Hannah	b. 30 Oct 1710		died 16 Apr 1725, age 15
Esther	11 Mar 1712	m.	Daniel Parke
Isaac	24 Dec 1713		died 6 Apr 1714, age 4 mos.
Samuel	1 Mar 1715		Patience Perry
Daniel	7 May 1717		Lucy Cogswell
Abigail	10 Apr 1719		Stephen Kinne
Sarah	12 May 1721		Zephaniah Branch, on 11 Nov 1742
+Moses	6 Mar 1723		Martha Cogswell
Ruth	3 Feb 1725		

(Captain) Moses Averill[4] (Isaac[3] William[2] William[1]) the youngest son and last child of his parents, was born in Preston, CT, the part now Griswold, on 6 Mar 1722/3. He moved in early manhood with the family group to New Preston, first included as a parish in the town of New Milford. It came under the jurisdiction of Kent until after the Revolutionary War, when his home was included in the town of Washington.

Soon after his arrival in western Connecticut, in 1748 or 9, Moses married Martha Cogswell, daughter of Edward and Hannah (Brown) Cogswell, and sister of his brother Daniel's wife, Lucy. Martha was born 11 Nov 1728, in Ipswich, MA. The Cogswells had been a wealthy and prominent family, involved in various profitable enterprises, ever since they came to Ipswich in 1635, and back in England before that. It was no different in this place, where they founded iron works, using the experience gained in their Saugus, Mass., business. They were also devout Puritans, and one of the first things they did here in the wilderness was to petition for the establishment of a new Congregational Church.

Moses was also devout, and he became a deacon, a great honor back in those days. The last couple of generations of Averills had also been very successful businessmen, and Moses was one of the best of them. He became a wealthy and influential citizen, and seems to have had his finger into everything. He was successful farmer, often constable, selectman in 1770, and State Representative from the district of Kent, CT, in the Pre-Revolutionary War years

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"Cogswell Family in America" - Rev. E. O. Jameson

Samuel & Moses Averill & their descendants owned shares in the Great Nine Partners land speculation & development corporation based originally at Amenia, NY. Some of the corporation's later projects were development of sites in So. Rutland Co. (Pawlet, Poultney, Danby) & Bennington Co. (esp. Manchester). There is also an Averill Twp. in NE Essex Co. near Canada. Note the town of Stillwater, NY at extreme bottom left of map, where Philo and Rebecca Averill lived until they migrated west.

It is suspected some White ancestors may have lived in Windham County, perhaps at Guilford or Rockingham, possibly Springfield.

of 1770-1776. Militarily, he was appointed ensign 1760, lieutenant 1763, and Captain of the Train Band in 1770. Of historical significance, Moses and his brothers, especially Samuel, were members of the "Great Nine Partners," a land speculation and development corporation in Dutchess Co., New York, and later also of Rutland Co., Vermont. History tells us that this was a time when New England began to bulge at the seams with people and not enough land. Land ordinarily could not be bought in New York because the Crown of England had given huge chunks of the state away to royal favorites, who wanted to run their vast estates in the outdated system--practically like medieval lords--with all the farming done by poor tenant farmers tied to the land with little hope of advancement. (Of course all the old "patroons" were Loyal to England during the war, and a lot of battles were fought in New York.)

But this was before the war, and quite a coup for the "Nine Partners" to own land there for development. One of the most aggressive partners seems to have been a man named Jonathan Willard, who was instrumental in persuading Gov. Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire to grant them the charters to build Pawlet, Danby and other communities in Rutland County, Vermont. They also built Manchester and other communities to the south, beginning in the 1760's. It was controversial. New Hampshire and New York both claimed the territory that became Vermont.

This writer has several times had the enjoyment of reading Vermont historical magazines and books, looking for something else, and reading that "this person and that came here from Nine Partners, New York." From the frequent references about people going back and forth between the two, it would seem that there was good cooperation between the two ventures.

Martha Averill died in 1781, and Moses in 1784. Their gravestones are still standing in a private Averill burial ground. He was briefly married to a lady named Sarah (?) after Martha's death.

Children of Moses and Martha (Cogswell) Averill:

Isaac, M.D.	b. 25 Jun 1750	m. (1) Hannah Miles (2) Mrs. Beach
Lois	1752	Lemuel Clark, lived in Vermont
Elisha	c. 24 Feb 1754	Mary ? (better known as General Elijah Avery of the Rev. War. Settled Rutland, VT & later Ontario Co., Western NY
Martha "Patty"	1763	Solomon Murray, d. 1805, Claverack NY
Amy	176?	Caswell died young
Currence	12 Feb 1764	
Moses	12 Jun 1766	Cynthia Russell
+Philo	3 Mar 1768	(1) Betsy Bordman (2) Charlotte Baker (3) Rebecca Rice
Calvin) Currence)	14 Dec 1770	(1) Salome Clary (2) Sarah Gunn unknown

Patty Averill is said to have been married in a "sky blue short-sleeved silk dress with fleecy white clouds on it, and gloves that buttoned all the way up to the sleeves." Her descendants still have some of the buttons.

It is doubtful that the writer's Grandpa knew much, if anything, about the next ancestor, though his own grandfather, Norman Chancellor Averill, might have mentioned his father, Philo Averill. Our generation knew nothing of him until after Billie Gene Pringle, the writer's sister, discovered Clara Avery's book after years of searching, and shared it with us eager relatives.

Thrilling as the book was to us, careful study of it showed that some of the details regarding the section about Philo did not quite fit together accurately, others were missing; and it left out the answer to the intriguing question - How, in 1814, did a family group with babies and young children migrate so far from Saratoga, New York, to an undeveloped spot on the Ohio River in Indiana?

Numerous junkets to the library, probing through hundreds of old books and records over the years, yielded just little of scraps of information here and there--but enough to be a source of amazement, then admiration. The words, "Connecticut Yankee," come to mind. He was resourceful, and must have been highly intelligent. He certainly was not bashful and seems to have had some influence in the communities in which he lived, and delved into this occupation and that, all of them requiring at least some skill. He may have been, or become, a Methodist. These are all things I learned, myself, since they are not even hinted at in the genealogy. And each little bit of information made this amazed descendant's admiration grow. Philo Averill is one of the people I want to share with my grandchildren and the other young Averill descendants. He was quite a character!

Philo Averill[5] (Moses[4] Isaac[3] William[2] William[1]) was the 8th of 10 children, born 20 Mar 1768 in New Preston, CT area. He was only 13 years old when his mother died, and 16 when his father died. He may or may not have been quite comfortable with his new stepmother, Sarah, as the only remaining parent. Perhaps he stayed with other family members. His sister, Lois Clark, was living near Rutland, Vermont, where many of the Averills were involved in real estate development and speculation connected with their interests in the "Nine Partners."

Philo's older brother, Elisha Averill, was a General during the Revolutionary War. Heitman's book about Revolutionary War officers describes him as being from Connecticut. He is referred to in most of the numerous records as Commissary-General "Elijah Avery." In 1785 (after the Revolution) Elisha moved to Pawlet, Vermont, with his wife and children. Perhaps he took young Philo along with them. There is no mention of Philo having been in Vermont in any book I have read, but research has turned up the names of families who could have been relatives of all three of his wives there. Also, he did learn land development somewhere, as we have learned in the last few years. You can add Philo's name to the growing list of Averills who were surveyors.

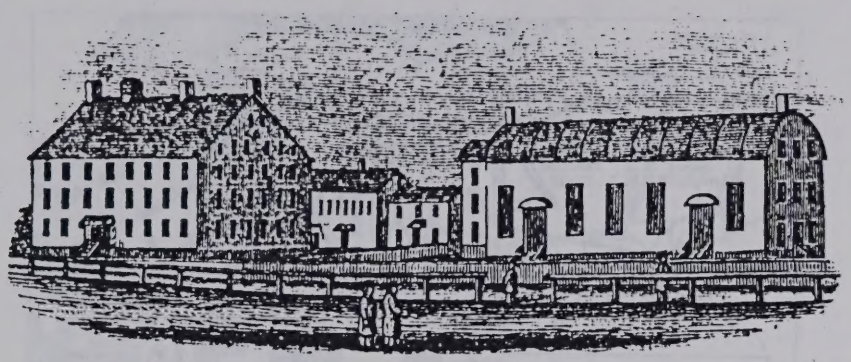
Philo Averill's first wife was Betsy Bordman, whom he may have married as early as 1788 or 1789. Betsy had two children, the first probably practically a baby when she died with the second. Possibly around 1792 he married Charlotte Baker, with whom he had three more children. Significant is the fact that they named their first daughter "Betsy" in honor of the wife who died. Charlotte, herself, was dead before the 1800 Federal census, when he is listed as a widower with one boy and one girl between 10 & 16, and two girls and one boy under 10. (These dates do not agree with the book, which admitted to guessing the children's ages.)

On 16 Apr 1808, Philo married our ancestor, Rebecca Rice, born 27 Apr 1775. (in New York according to later census information). "Rebekah Rice" was widow of James Cropsey and evidently did not have any Cropsey children. She was said to have been daughter of Captain George Rice, which writer cannot as yet confirm because research has yet to reveal any man of that name who could possibly have been her father, in the Revolution, French-Indian War, or even in peace, and have concluded that, at least officially, he must have been known by some other first name. There was a Cavalry officer named George Rice, who could conceivably have been her brother, in Onondaga County, New York. Since Rebecca and Philo owned and sold some land in Cicero, Onondaga County, before they left for Indiana, she could have inherited that land from her father, especially since that was in the military tract. But this is only speculation.

Records also show that Philo and Rebecca sold a home in Greenfield, Saratoga County, NY, the year they were married. They lived in Stillwater, a town on the Hudson River east of Saratoga Springs, which was in the preliminary stages but had not yet blossomed into what would become a popular resort area where rich people gathered in lavish hotels, dance halls and spas where they could imbibe the celebrated, slightly laxative, waters.

Why Philo got involved is not known, but he is said to have fought under General William Henry Harrison at Tippecanoe in Indiana, in 1811; and also in the War of 1812. It is well known that General Harrison did have a company of troops from New England serving under him at that time. Philo's admiration for General Harrison was so great that he later persuaded his son, Henry, to name a little son for the General.

Rebecca and Philo seem to have been tolerant, caring people, shown by naming their first child Henry James Cropsey Averill and their second Charlotte Baker Averill, for her deceased first husband and his deceased second wife. (As noted above, he had already named a daughter of his second marriage for his deceased first wife.) Their piety is shown by the fact that two of his oldest children joined the Shakers.



Shaker Buildings in New Lebanon.

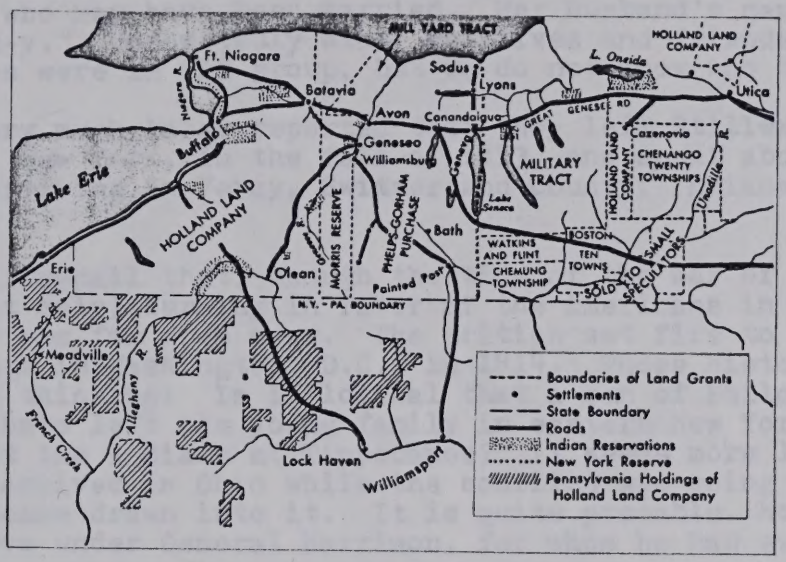
New Lebanon, Shaker village, called by its inhabitants the village of the "*Millennial Church*," is two and a half miles S. of the spring, on the western side of the Taghkanic mountain, and contains about six hundred inhabitants. The annexed view shows one of their dwellings (containing a *family* of 150 persons,) and their meeting-house, which was erected in 1823. This place of worship is somewhat singular in its construction. It is eighty feet long by sixty-five wide, all in one room, without beams or pillars, having a domical roof covered with tin; and a porch thirty-four by twenty-seven feet, roofed and covered the same way. The building is of wood, but the foundation and flights of steps are of marble.

"This edifice," says a visiter, "stands in a beautiful grass plat, in the centre of the village. There are no seats in the house, except for spectators of their worship. Their stone walls and other fences are constructed with the utmost regularity and precision, and their gate-posts are of massive marble columns, of many tons weight. They manufacture a great variety of articles for sale, which are remarkable for their neatness and durability;

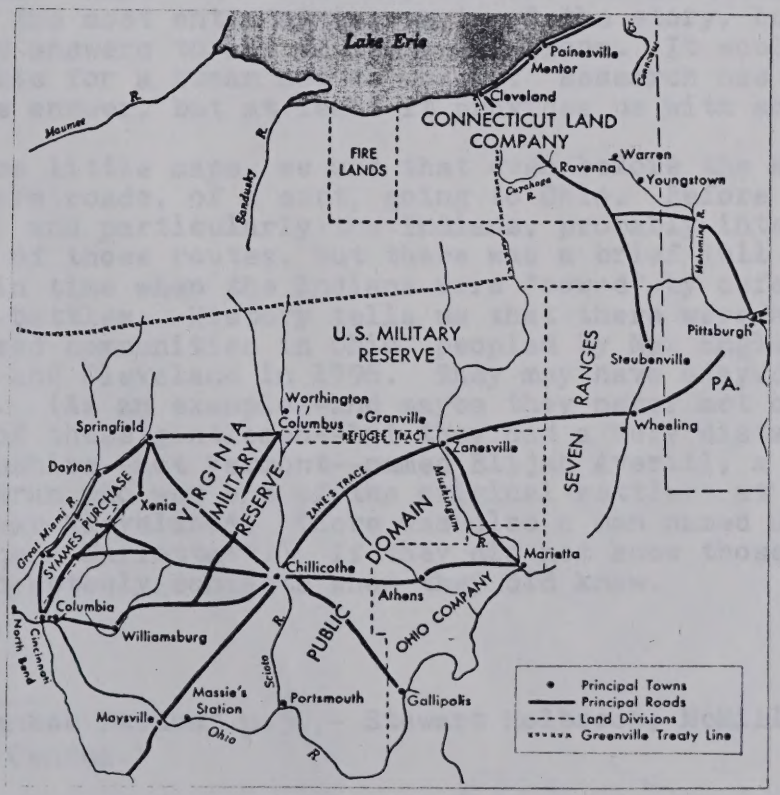
This is probably the Shaker Community where two of Philo Averill's oldest children lived. In 1800, he and his children were living in this same county, in New York, where the Shaker movement was very powerful, this being the world headquarters. The community at this location was founded in 1787, though this is a view as it would have looked in 1823.

-from "Historical Collections of the State of New York" page 120, section on Columbia County. - J. W. Barber et al, Tuttle, printed 1841.

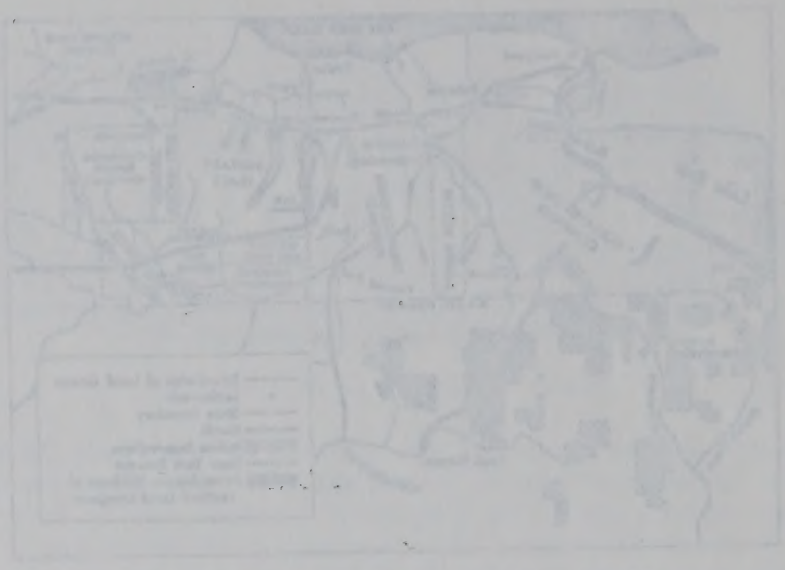
The following maps show probable routes used by the Averill Family on their migration to the Ohio River, and they would have used the river to get to Indiana.



The New York-Pennsylvania Frontier, 1790–1812



The Ohio Country, 1790–1812



45 Year old Philo Averill must really have liked what he saw of Indiana, for he quickly headed right back, taking Rebecca, tiny baby Eliza, and toddlers Charlotte and Henry. Three grown children went with them--Rowlen and Malissa with their spouses, and teenage Electa who may have been married. Her husband's name sounds "New England-y." Undoubtedly other relatives and friends with their families were in the group, but we do not know who they were.

Son Henry much later reported that they left Stillwater, Saratoga County, New York, in the fall of 1813, and spent about a year in Ohio, arriving in Vevay, Switzerland County, Indiana, in the fall of 1814.

One will recall that, though the tide of the War of 1812 was (in the west only) turning in favor of the Americans in late 1813, the war was far from over. The British set fire to government buildings in Washington, D.C., in 1814. Those historical facts set one thinking: Is it logical that a man of Philo's age would really have left his young family in eastern New York in 1811 to go fight the Indians at Tippecanoe? It seems more logical that, having arrived in Ohio while the conflict was going on, he then became drawn into it. It is quite probable, however, that he did serve under General Harrison, for whom he had such admiration.

What mode of transportation did they employ? What did they take with them? What route did they follow? Those details would make some of the most entertaining parts of the story, but we do not know the answers to any of those questions. It would be practically impossible for a human not to wonder. Research has not come up with the answer, but at least it provides us with some clues.

Using the little maps, we see that even before the War of 1812 there were roads, of a sort, going to Ohio. Before late 1813 the British, and particularly the Indians, probably interfered with the use of those routes, but there was a brief lull about that period in time when the Indians were "cowed" by defeat in certain crucial battles. History tells us that there were already two good sized communities in Ohio peopled by New Englanders, Marietta in 1788 and Cleveland in 1796. They may have stayed in or near one of them. (As an example--and maybe they never met or heard of either of these gentlemen--but they had a very distant cousin from New Hampshire--not Vermont--named Elijah Averill, a Revolutionary War veteran who was one of the original settlers at Lafayette, Ohio, near Cleveland*. There was also a man named George Rice living near Marietta**.) If they did not know those people, there were undoubtedly contacts whom they did know.

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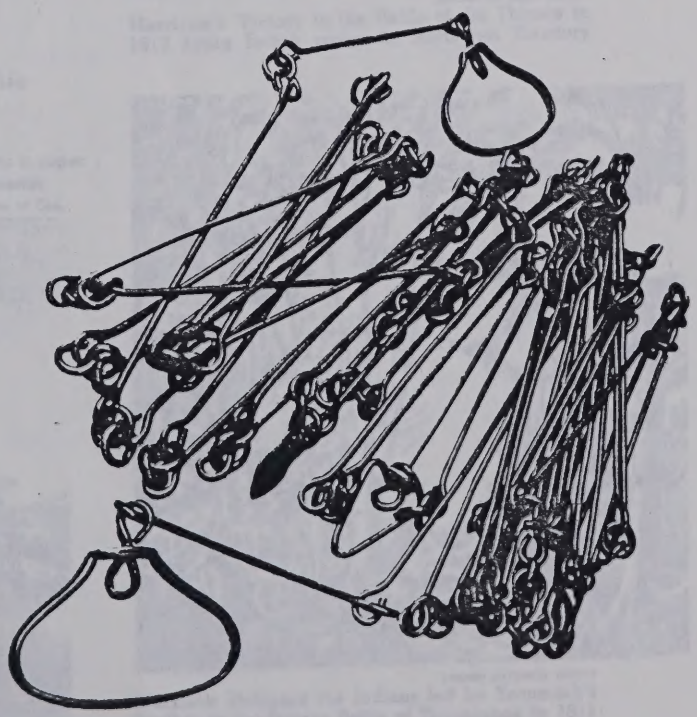
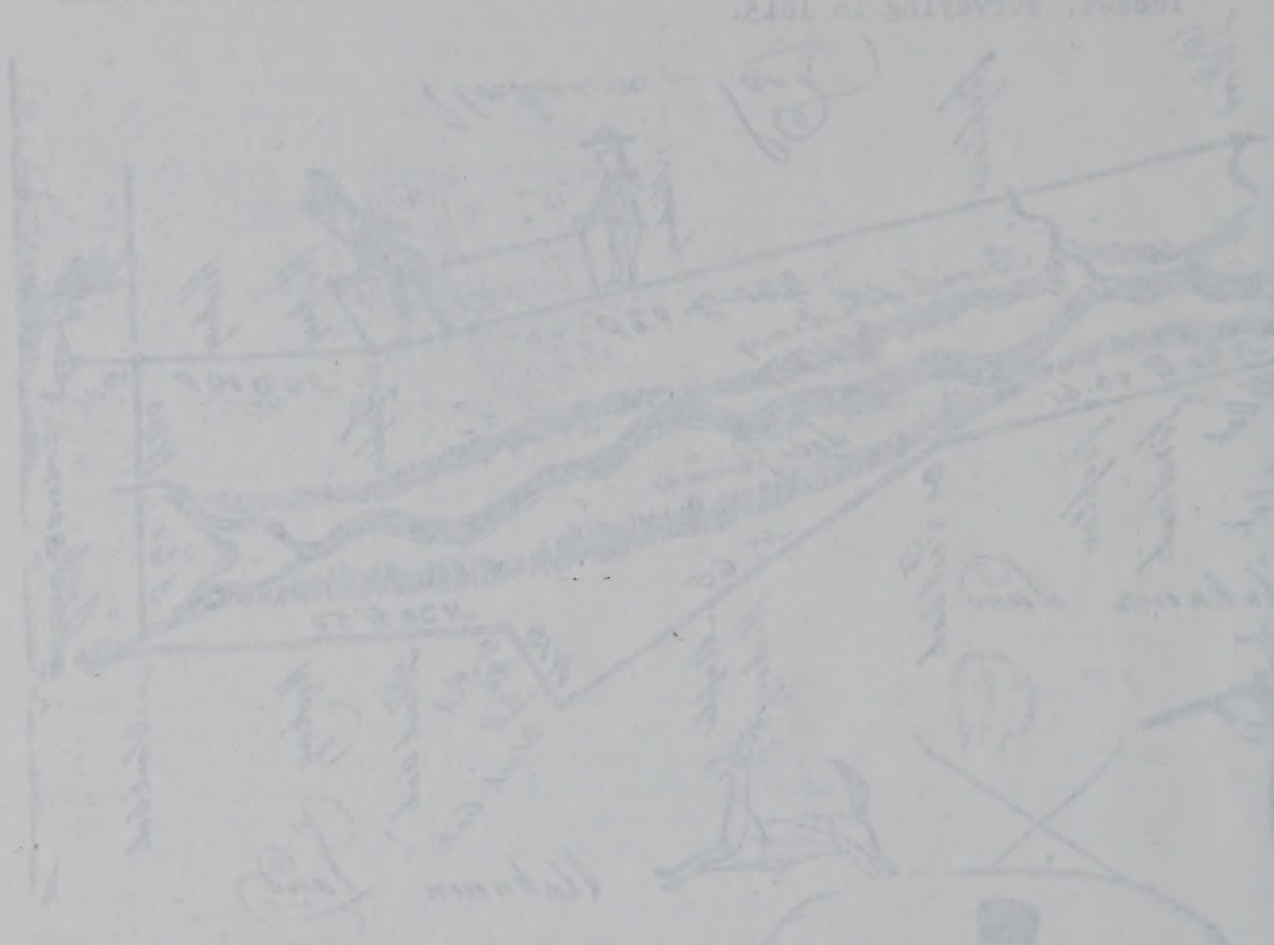
*"The Yankee Exodus" p.50,- Stewart Holbrook, McMillan
**"U.S. Census."

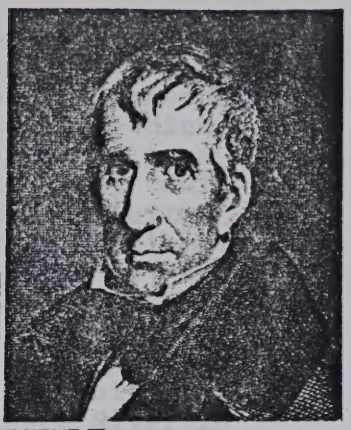
Here's to surveying, the occupation of at least five generations of our Averill Forefathers! The picture shows how Philo would have looked, surveying in 1815.



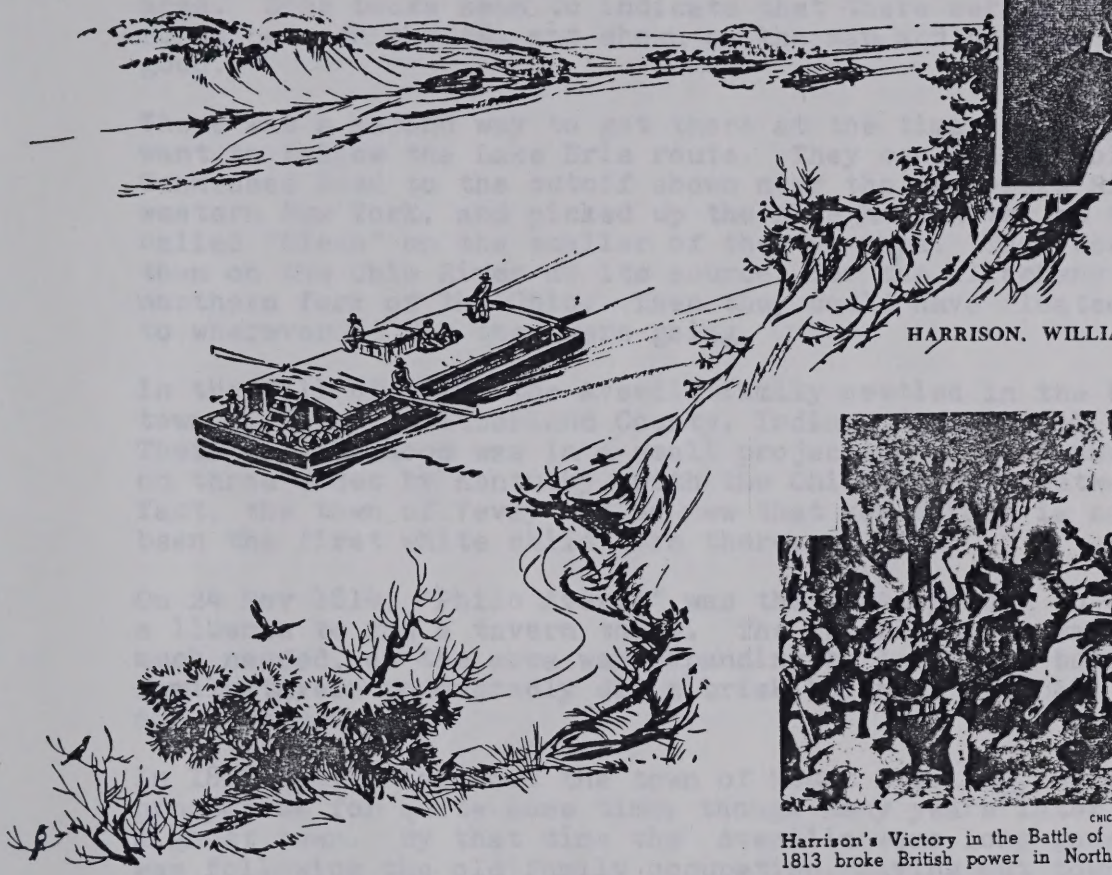


AVERILL FAMILY

Philo Averill idolized Gen. William Henry Harrison who later became President, and named a grandson for him.



HARRISON, WILLIAM HENRY, 1773–1841,



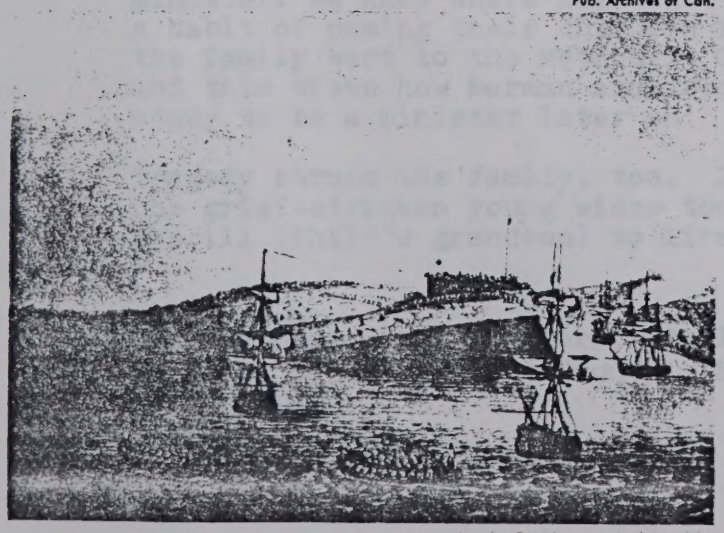
A flatboat on the Ohio

CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Harrison's Victory in the Battle of the Thames in 1813 broke British power in Northwest Territory

In the picture below a British force attacks Fort Ontario at Oswego on Lake Ontario in upper New York during the War of 1812. The fort has been preserved as a state memorial.

Pub. Archives of Can.



CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Harrison Defeated the Indians led by Tecumseh's brother in the famous Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811

There is little doubt that they took the very popular Gennessee Road, probably over to Buffalo, then followed the route which hugs the Lake Erie shore to about Cleveland. (They could even have taken a boat from Buffalo to Cleveland.) Then they could have taken one of the roads shown on the map to the Marietta area. Some books seem to indicate that there were more direct roads between the two not shown on the map, and perhaps not as good.

There was a second way to get there at the time, if they did not want to follow the Lake Erie route. They could have followed the Gennessee Road to the cutoff shown near the Gennessee River in western New York, and picked up the Allegheny River at the place called "Olean" on the smaller of the two maps. That would put them on the Ohio River at its source, for the Allegheny is the northern fork of the Ohio. Then they could have floated down to wherever it was they were going.

In the fall of 1814, the Averill family settled in the brand new town of Vevay, Switzerland County, Indiana, then still a territory. Their neighborhood was in a small projection of land surrounded on three sides by Kentucky, with the Ohio River in between. In fact, the town of Vevay was so new that son Norman is said to have been the first white child born there.

On 24 Nov 1814, "Philo Averil" was the first person to obtain a license to run a tavern there. The establishment was undoubtedly much needed, as the area was expanding by leaps and bounds. The family tavern undoubtedly did a brisk business with all the travelers and newcomers.

In 1816, Philo laid out the town of Mount Sterling, which was prosperous for quite some time; though many years later it became a ghost town. By that time the Averills were long gone. Philo was following the old family occupation, laying out towns.

The two youngest Averill children were born in Vevay, Norman Chancellor in January, 1816 and Allen Wiley in February, 1817. Since discovering a man named Allen Wiley was the local Methodist minister, we know where Allen got his name. Philo and Rebecca had a habit of naming their children for people they admired. Evidently the family went to the Methodist Church even at this early date, and this shows how Norman acquired the piety that inspired him to study to be a minister later on.

Tragedy struck the family, too. In 1816 son Rowlen Green died. The grief-stricken young widow took their little son, Charles Averill (Philo's grandson) to live back in New York.

Indiana Magazine of History, "Early Vevay" - Perret DuFour
"History of Switzerland County, IN" pp. 1002,1117,1118, 1139-40 - printed 1872.

In 1818 the Averill family moved down the river a ways to "Elizabethtown, Pope County, Illinois, at the southern tip of that state, and lived there for six years. (Long after they left, that town became part of Hardin County.)

Though they left out that part of the story, their next move was to Sangamon County, where Philo left behind his voting record. They probably went there about 1824. Philo was a faithful voter at the courthouse in Springfield. Voting records also show him running for Coroner in 1830, when he was 62 years old. He lost the election.

Shortly after that they moved to or near Macomb, McDonough County, Illinois, and Charlotte was married there to Nicholas Tays, either in 1831 as the Avery book says or 1833 as vital statistics say. In fact, all five of the youngest children married in that county. Electa and her husband lived nearby in a little town by the name of Tennessee, and that is where she later died. Data collected about the Black Hawk War shows that Henry Averil served in Ball's Company of the Sangamon County IL regiment. That does not necessarily mean he was still living there, though, for they were free to choose whichever county regiment they felt most comfortable with.

Rebecca (Rice) Averill died 9 Sep 1844, age 69. Philo died a month later, age 76, on 22 Oct.

The next step, of course, is to list all of the children. But to keep out of trouble (because of deviating so far from the ages of the children as suggested by genealogist Avery) this compiler would like to list some of the reasons.

1. The 1800 Columbia County NY census shows Philo as a widower with five children - a boy 10-16, a girl 10-16, a boy under 10, and two girls -10. Census data can be misleading, so more corroborated evidence is needed.

2. Two children are said to have joined the Shakers in New York. They would have not been old enough had they been born in 1801 and 1805, as the book suggests.

3. Rowlen Green Averill was married in New York and left a widow and little son Charles when he died in 1816--impossible if he had been born in 1803, as suggested.

4. A less compelling clue, but Electa and her husband, Nehemiah Herd, seem to have married at a very much earlier date than the younger children, and to have acted a little independently. They lived in Tennessee while the others were in Colchester or Macomb, not far away. She stayed there until she died, while the others migrated to Iowa.

"Snow Birds, Poll Books of Sangamo Co., IL 1821-1830" - WPA
Vital Records of McDonough Co., IL

Children of Philo and first wife, Betsy (Bordman) Averill:

Malissa	b. ? 1789	m.	Timothy Haskell, "moved to IL, then Mich., then South."
Orilla	? 1790		"joined the Shakers--in NY?" Is this really a boy, Orville? (a later family name)

Children of Philo and second wife, Charlotte (Baker) Averill:

Rowlen Green	? 1793	wife's name unknown, died 1816 in IN, leaving widow & baby Charles Averill
Betsy	? 1795	"joined the Shakers--in NY?"
Electa	? 1797	Nehemiah Herd. lived last in Tennessee, McDonough Co., IL, died there.

Children of Philo and third wife, Rebecca (Rice) Averill:

Henry James Cropsey 20 Jul 1809- 4 Oct 1897 Stillwater NY-Linn OR	1)	10 Sep 1840	Hulda Ann Warren (2 Oct 1824-OH- 20 Apr 1859 OR)She was 16 year old stepdaughter of his younger sister Eliza
	2)	1 Jan 1861	Sarah Liggett (1816 MO-1897 OR) More details follow.
Charlotte Baker Feb 1811-16 Oct 1901 NY-Erie, KS		7 Mar 1833	Nicholas Royal Tays, had several children
Eliza 1813 NY- lived to 18--? Rockland, Mercer Co., IL		10 Mar 1839	Levi Warren (1797-18--?)MA to NY to OH to IL. Widower with 5 sons 1 daughter when they married
+Norman Chancellor 11 Jan 1816 IN-1881+KS		1 Aug 1844	Martha E. Clayton (1823 VA- 1880+ KS) More details follow.
Allen Wiley 4 Feb 1817 - 11 Feb 1891 Vevay IN-Lane KS	1)	7 Jan 1847	Sarah Clayton (1830 TN-18--?KS) had 7 children
	2)	? 18__	Mary Ann Delbridge (26 Jn 1829-OH- 26 Dec 1892 Colchester IL) No ch.

Footnote:

1850 Census of Mercer Co. IL (res. #766, 767 & 775)differs from the genealogy, about the Warren family. Though we are not descended from them, we are interested because of what they show us about the Averills. Born 1797 in MA, Levi Warren lived in NY and in Ohio where he had 5 sons, 1 dtr. His wife died about 1837. He was a prosperous farmer. (In 1839, at age 42, he married 26-year old Eliza Averill. The next year his 16-year old only daughter married Eliza's older brother, 31-year old Henry.)

Eliza and Levi are shown with 4 little sons 10 & under and 3 teenage sons, plus relative Lyman Warren, age 29, born Ohio. Eliza must have been awfully busy cooking for all those men! Henry and Hulda also had 4 little boys. That was just before they left for Oregon. Eliza (Averill) Warren was not just Hulda Ann (Warren) Averill's stepmother. She was also her sister-in-law.

Places in the old Northwest Territories where our Averill ancestors lived.

Norman Chancellor Averill[6] (Philo[5] Moses[4] Isaac[3] William[2] William[1]) son of Philo and Rebecca (Rice) Averill, was born on 11 Jan 1815. He was the first white child born in the new town of Vevay, Jefferson Twp., Switzerland County, Indiana, that town having been laid out a mere year previous. The child grew up in a far different world from that of his parents' childhood.

History of the county of Norman's birth reveals that the first white settlers in the area were Swiss vintners, trying to grow grapes on the surrounding bluffs around the turn of the century. The Swiss lived in log cabins, concealed the best they could among the trees from often hostile Indians. British fur traders and soldiers, loath to give up the Northwest Territory even though they had nominally lost it during the Revolutionary War, supplied guns to the Indians and encouraged them to resist white settlement.

By late 1814 the Indians were subdued, if not totally resigned, and that is when our Averill family appeared on the scene. Most of the other residents (except for the Swiss) were from Kentucky or Virginia, particularly the part which later became West Virginia. Others were from Pennsylvania and Tennessee, with only a few from New York or New England, so that it can be said that Norman grew up in a sort of Southern culture except from his parents. There were horses and wagons in the area. Kentucky on the other side of the river was already known for fine horses. But most trade and travel was by keel boat or barge, a lot of it with Frankfort or Lexington. Louisville and Cincinnati were the large towns. Merchandise was more likely to be from New Orleans (or even Prairie du Chien!) than from back East. With the Averill family running an inn, there must have been a lot of activity.

By the time Norman was four, they were living in Elizabethtown, Illinois, on the far southeastern tip of the state, still on the Ohio River, and conditions much the same as in Indiana. When he was eleven they moved inland a bit, and were now in or near Springfield. (It is interesting to realize that this family was living in both Indiana and Illinois at about the same time as Abraham Lincoln, and in about the same localities in both states!) During his mid-teens, the family moved to around Macomb, McDonough County, Illinois, and remained there during his early manhood.

On 1 Aug 1844, Norman Chancellor Averill married Martha E. Clayton, born about 1823 in Washington County in hilly southwestern Virginia, daughter of William W. and Martha E. "Patsey" (Vest) Clayton. Martha's father had also fought in the War of 1812, but in Norfolk on Virginia's eastern coast, not in Ohio or Indiana. And instead of coming to Illinois down the Ohio River as the Averills had, albeit in stages, the Claytons migrated there through Tennessee where Martha's sister Sarah (who later married his brother Allen) was born. The Clayton family, like the Averill family, married off quite a number of its sons and daughters in McDonough County.

Norman's parents died within a couple of months after the wedding, so the first few months must have been bittersweet. Joyous and busy days soon followed, for the first little half-Virginian Averill arrived only 9½ months later. Little William C. (for Clayton?) Averill, who would later lose his life in the Civil War fighting for the side of the north, in Arkansas, was first, followed a couple of years later by Quincy and then our ancester, Sarah Jane.

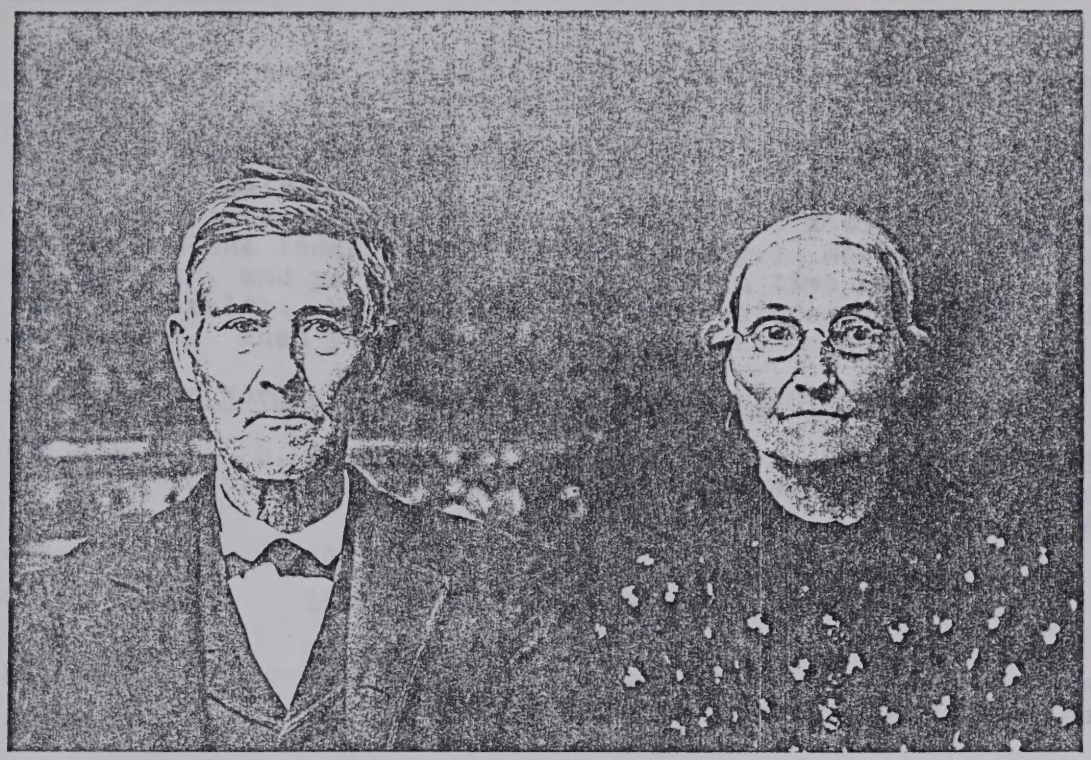
By the 1850's the spirit of western migration in the US was very strong. The Indian problem had long since been resolved. Gold had been discovered in California, and the Willamette Valley of Oregon was being touted as a garden paradise.

The Averill siblings, inlaws, and close friends were acquiring sizeable families. The clan was getting large and they had stayed in the Macomb-Tennessee-Colchester area of McDonough County longer than they had in any other locality. Good farming land to the west was cheap. The State of Iowa was only three years old, and the mouth of the Des Moines River poised only about 35 miles west of where they lived. Most of them decided to follow that river to Northern Iowa, but Norman's brother Henry (also known as HJC) decided to go all the way to Oregon. We will follow the others for a while, then get back to him because he had such a fascinating tale, and told it.

The families moved to farms in Webster County, Iowa in 1851, and then two years later slightly south, to Boone County. US 1860 census shows Norman and Martha with all their children at Pilot Mound Township, Boone County, Iowa --though the "baby" three-year old Bethel was listed as a girl named "Bertha."(Could the census taker not understand Martha's Virginia accent?) They must have been rather prosperous, for their farm was valued at $3000 when the average appeared to be about $500, and they also had $450 personal property. As an interesting note, daughter Martha E.'s future husband was living nearby, in the form of 8-year old Richard Hussey, son of miller Thomas J. (& Louisa) Hussey, home worth $400 but property of $1000, I suppose equipment of his trade.

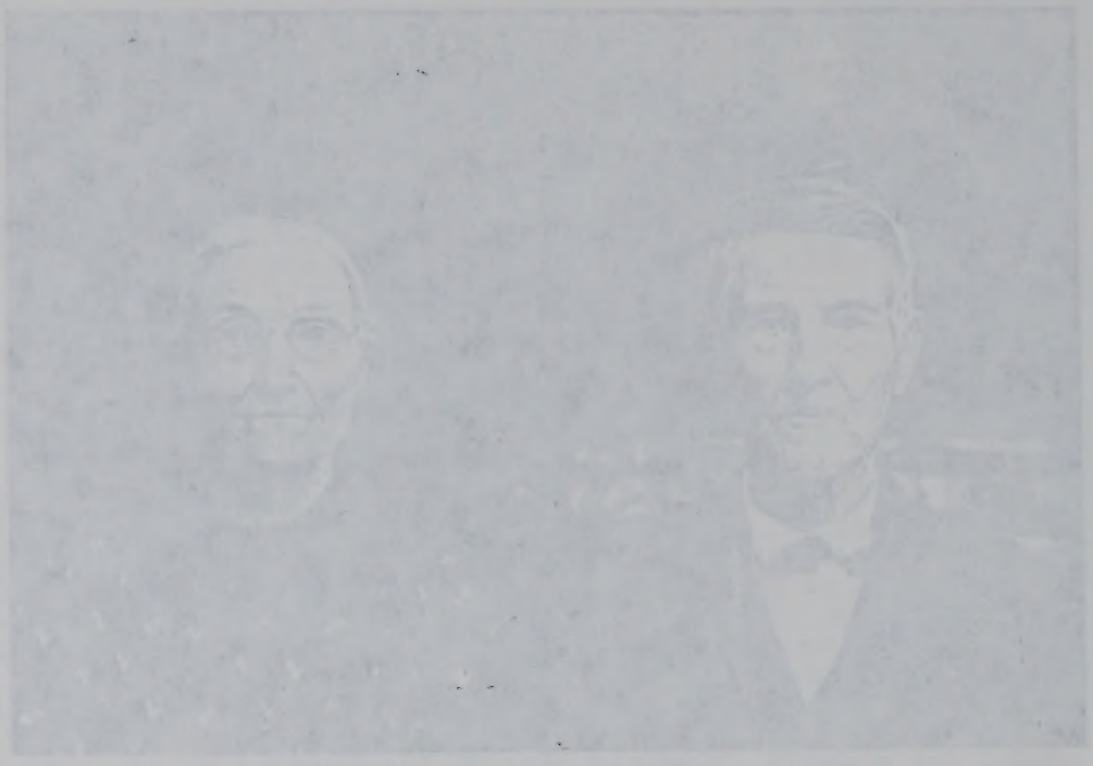
The family had always been rather religious, and while they were in Iowa Norman evidently studied the Methodist faith. He became licensed to preach, and perhaps he did but the writer's family has no recollection of that. Daughter Sarah Jane did marry the local minister of their church, a young Civil War Veteran, (our ancestor).

In 1868 the clan, which had grown larger yet, prepared to move again. In 1862 Kansas had established the Homestead Act, granting free land to attract aettlers, but that was before the Civil War and there were "carpetbaggers" causing trouble. By 1868 the war was over and the times were right. So they went to Kansas, settling mainly in Miami County in the Lane and Osawatomie areas, though some Averills went as far south as Erie. "Having no Methodist church close," Norman and his sons - in 1881, age 66 - joined the local Society of Friends, becoming Quakers.



Norman Chancellor Averill and his wife, Martha E. Clayton. Photo taken in Lane, Kansas, probably in the latter half of the 1870's.

William Wesley White and his wife, Mary Liddie, or Lydia (Dunn). Photo taken in Hamilton, Mo. in the late 1890's. Wesley was a grandson of N.C. and M.E. Averill.



German Chancellor Imperial and his wife, Berlin S.Oppen Photo taken in June, German, probably in the latter half of the 1910's.

William Howard White and his wife, Mary Isabella, or Bella (Bond). Photo taken in Hamilton, Mo. in the late 1900's. Howard was a grandson of U.S. and M.E. Imperial.

The dates of Norman Chancellor and Martha's deaths have yet to be learned, but they were certainly senior citizens. The treasured only photograph, which was copied for this writer, reveals that they may have lost their teeth. Her hair is thin and her glasses thick. His hair is unruly and he may be wearing a partial toupee. (Perhaps I inherit Martha's arched eyebrows. Would live to inherit something--she looks like a nurturing lady.) Norman was a pleasant-looking man, and perhaps at that period in time he was starting to lose his health. He has nice, regular features and an intelligent expression. When young he may have been handsone.

Children of Norman Chancellor and Martha E.(Clayton) Averill:

William C.	b. 15 May 1845	McDonough Co., IL. Entered Civil War Service Boone Co. IA - died during war, 1865, Little Rock Ark.
Quincy Monroe	4 Feb 1848	IL, m. Rebecca Haworth
+Sarah Jane R.	18 Oct 1849	IL, m. Rev. John Wesley White more follows.
Martha E.	22 Sep 1852	Webster Co., IA, m. Richard Hussey in Kansas, died 15 Aug 1895 leaving 9 children
Charles N.	20 Feb 1855	Boone Co., IA, m. Anna Lasby
Bethel P.	26 Nov 1856	" " " m. Mary E. Wells d. 14 Aug 1923, Shoshone, Idaho

Next we are going to digress a bit, to report on Norman's brother, who was the writer's great-great granduncle. The reader is encouraged to determine his relation to you. He is an interesting relative to have, and the first of our kin to take the Oregon Trail to the Willamette Valley in Oregon, and he reported the details of the trip.* (Members of the Dodge Family clan went to California during the Gold Rush, so they say, but they did not leave details behind.)

The following information is partially excerpted from newspaper clippings sent to compiler's sister, Mrs. Billie Pringle, by a Mrs. Meredith Bolton, an Oregon descendant of Henry James Cropsey Averill (HJC for short).

* Photocopy of periodical (Oregon Times?) 25 Nov 1982, Caloopa Publ., "Past Times - H.J.C. Averill" Reporter, Margaret S. Carey

Past Times

H.J.C. Averill

By Margaret Plandish-Carey

H.J.C. Averill was one of Linn County's prominent pioneer citizens. Material about this man who surveyed much land around the county was recently given to us by a descendant of Averill, James Stanard of McMinnville.

Averill is a familiar name in these parts. Two of the local area's weekly newspapers, *The Times* of Brownsville and *The Halsey Review*, were at different times run by Virgil Averill and his family, also decendants of H.J.C. Averill.

A familiar landmark is the little yellow Averill house located on the southeast corner of Stanard and Averill streets in Brownsville's north side.

But H.J.C. Averill, himself, is not as well known to today's generation. Part of Stanard's collection included a paper written in both the first and second person; but presumably autobiographical about the man, Henry J.C. Averill.

The manuscript has been slightly edited for this column but retains the flavor of the original.

* * * *

"Henry James Cropsey Averill was the eldest of five children of Philo Averill and Rebecca Rice-Averill. Philo was born March 20, 1768. Rebecca was born April 27, 1775.

"Henry J.C. Averill, born July 20, 1809, at Stillwater, Saratoga, Co., N.Y. Left there the fall of 1813 for Ohio. He was one year there, then in 1814 settled in Vevay, Switzerland, Co., Indiana.

"In 1818 moved to Illinois, settled near Elisabethtown, Pope Co. In 1824 moved to McDonough Co., Illinois. Settled near McComb in said county. Was married there to Huldah Ann Warren September 10, 1840.

"Lived there eight years, then moved to Mercer County (Illinois). In 1850 . . . sold out with intention of coming to Oregon, but failed to get pay for place.

"Stopped in Henderson County a little of year. In the spring of '52, the 15th day of April, started for Oregon. On the 8th of October started to cross the Cascade Mountains.

"IN 5(?) days got across the mountains and got into Linn County, Oregon, near Albany without a cent, and (with) a family of wife and 4 children. Had 2 yoke of oxen, one cow. Took up a claim four miles from Albany and built a log house and covered it in the rain with clapboards.

"Moved-in without any floor. Built a fire in the middle of (the) house. "Cut fir brush to put our bed on, then split out puncheons and hewed them out and made a floor.

"Our furniture consisted of three (?), 4 stools and split boards and made a table. Made a bed stead by putting boards from cracks in wall, with posts to hold them up.

"Lived at that place 4 years, It being so sickly lost 4 children; then on the river. Moved out on Albany Prairie 5 miles from Albany. Wife died there April 20, 1859. Kind neighbors took 2 of the children and two oldest stayed at home.

"In 1860 (?), moved to near Brownsville where I (H.J.C. Averill) have since resided. "Was elected county surveyor 7 times, served 14 years. Elected 3 times in Illinois."

* * * *

Averill added to his story the following information about the trip to Oregon across the plains:

"Had trouble with Indians one day. Cholera raged (?) from Platte River to Snake River. At one place when we came along there was seventy (victims?). "For several hundred miles we were never out of sight of somebody dying, or a new made grave. Have seen people alive and well at night and in the morning dead. Our train consisted of about 100 wagons, some bound for California, some Oregon.

* * * *

Another item in Jim Stanard's Averill collection is an official document dated February 15, 1893, issued by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, granting H.J.C. Averill a survivor's pension of eight-dollars-a-month for the latter's service as a private in the Indian Wars, in Captain Ball's Company, Illinois Volunteers.

Of local interest is the handwritten "In Memorium" prepared by the Brownsville Lodge, No. 36 AF&AM, DATED Nov. 5, 1897, following the death of one of its fellow Masons, H.J.C. Averill.

The eulogy was prepared by J.P. Cooley, W.B. Blanchard and F.M. Powell, and was read for the Lodge and submitted to the Brownsville newspaper fopr publication.

It is obvious that Averill was a man who commanded the affection and respect of his peers and the citizens of Brownsville and Linn County.

Our thanks to Jim Stanard for sharing these glimpses into the life of another pioneer of Linn County.

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J. E. BLACKBURN

Surveyor with Level at work in mountainous setting

With no change except to arrange in chronological order for clarity, the words in quotes are the actual autobiographical words of HJC, himself. "Sold out in 1850 with intention of coming to Oregon but failed to get pay for place so stopped over in Henderson County. Started for Oregon April 15, 1852. Our train consisted of about 100 wagons, some bound for California, some for Oregon. Had trouble with Indians one day. Cholera raged from Platte River to Snake River. At one place we came along there was seventy"(victims?) "For several hundred miles we were never out of sight of someone dying or a new made grave. Have seen people alive and well at night and in the morning dead. On the 8th of October started to cross the Cascade mountains. In 5 (?) days got across the mountains and got into Linn County, Oregon, near Albany without a cent and (with) a family of wife and 4 children. Had 2 yoke of oxen, one cow."

HJC then did what he had to. The cold, wet season was upon them and they had to have shelter. The children were little. He took up a donation claim in the only place readily available, which turned out to be a disaster. It was not far from the river, with little lakes and swamps not far enough away. Malaria was very bad, though of course he did not know it. (Living right on the Ohio River in a different climate had been all right.)

HJC continues, "Built a log house and covered it in the rain, with clapboards. Moved in without any floor. Built a fire in middle of the house. Cut fir brush to put our bed on, then split out puncheons and hewed them out and made a floor. Our furniture consisted of 3 (?), 4 stools, and split boards and made a table. Made a bedstead by putting boards from cracks in walls, with posts to hold them up. Lived at that place 4 years. It being so sickly lost 4 children; then on the river. Moved out on Albany Prairie 5 miles from Albany. Wife died there on April 20, 1859. Kind neighbors took 2 of the children and the oldest 2 stayed at home. In 1860 moved to near Brownsville where I have since resided. Was elected county surveyor 7 times, served 14 years. Elected 3 times in Illinois."

(A sign of the times was that all during those terrible times in the malaria-infested region, HJC and Hulda continued to have children. Including the four who died in Albany and one in Illinois, they had nine children.)

Away from that unlucky region, his life changed for the better. He was evidently a very good surveyor, and a great many of the early townsites and roads were laid out by him. He must have learned surveying from his father, Philo. It is very interesting to see this Averill doing well following the same occupation his ancestor, Will Averill, Jr., succeeded so well in two centuries before. One wonders whether HJC knew anything about that or, like his distant cousins in Connecticut about the same time, had lost all track of his early ancestors. He did know about his Grandfather, Captain Moses, and his Uncle General Elisha and their service in the Revolutionary War. He also knew about the Cogswells from Philo, and loved to repeat those stories to his own children, as reported by the boy Philo had named, William Henry Harrison Averill. (WHH)

Front Row: R. Stout, Eliza (Belieu) Stout, H.J.C. Averill, Mary Jack (twin), Sarah (Liggett-Belieu-Jack) Averill, Sarah Jack (twin)

Back Row: Francis Marion Jack, Henrietta Willametta Averill, Julia (Belieu) Hall, either William Henry Harrison Averill or Alfred Alexander Averill, ___?___ Jack (is this really Joseph Pearne Averill?), Jasper Newton Jack.

It is amusing to look at this picture and separate out the Averills, the Belieus, and the Jacks. You could really figure it out without being told, as the Averills' mouths turn up, the Jacks' turn down, and the Belieus' are straight. This was probably taken soon after H.J.C. and Sarah's 1861 marriage, for little Arminta Olive is not in the picture.

The children who died were: Charles Baker, in Illinois, died 1847 age one week; James Wiley, died 1855 Albany, Oregon, age 13; Albert Washington 1854, age 5; Harriet Isabella 1852, age 6 mos.; and Charles Wilbur, who died in May 1859, age one week, the same month as his mother, 35-year old Hulda Ann (Warren) Averill.

The children who stayed at home when their mother died were WHH, age 15½ and Alfred, age 13½. The children who were taken in by kind neighbors were Henrietta, 5½ and Joseph, 2. All four of those children survived the hard times, grew up and had children of their own, and prospered. WHH became a successful merchant and was for a time county commissioner. He had eleven children, including newspaper owners and editors, college educated. Alfred Alexander was ancestor of my sister's Oregon correspondent, well educated wife of a teacher. The sister, Henrietta Willametta married twice, had five children, and lived in Oakland, CA. Joseph Pearne stayed in the area, at Joseph, Oregon.

In 1861, HJC married Mrs. Sarah Jack, a widow with an interesting past of her own. Born Sarah Liggett in Missouri in 1816, at age 17 she married a Methodist minister, Rev. Leander Belieu. In Spring 1845 they left for Oregon; but they had the misfortune to be in a wagon train led by a man named Meek who attempted to find a shortcut through the mountains. They got lost and wandered around for several months before they finally reached the Dalles in a famishing condition. In 1849, when gold fever broke out in California, Rev. Belieu took a ship but perished aboard and was buried on an island, leaving her a widow with children. In 1851 she married another Methodist minister, Rev. N. D. Jack, and they moved to Brownsville, Oregon where he died a few years later. (Sept.1857) In 1861 Sarah and HJC were married, and had one daughter, Arminta Olive, who married and had a family in Brownsville. Sarah (Liggett)(Belieu)(Jack) Averill died 19 Nov. 1894 at age 78. She had borne 12 children of three husbands, eight of whom were then living, and had 53 grandchildren and 41 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren at the time of her death!

In later years, Henry James Cropsey Averill became a familiar figure in the area, well liked, and neighborhood children called him "Grandpa Averill" whether they were relatives or not.

In 1892, "when he was too old to carry his surveying instruments," HJC received pension #936 of $8.00 a month for volunteer service in the Indian Wars in Illinois. He died in 1897, age 88, leaving behind five children and their descendants.

Sarah Jane R. Averill[7] (Norman Chancellor[6] Philo[5] Moses[4] Isaac[3] William[2] William[1]) was born 18 Oct 1849, near Macomb, McDonough County, Illinois (now site of a fine teachers' college). She was daughter of Norman Chancellor and Martha E. (Clayton) Averill. (She was also later the much-loved mother of Grandpa Wesley White.) When she was a little two-year old, her family and others in the extended Averill Family (except for Uncle Henry and his family, who went to Oregon) followed the Des Moines River to Webster County in North Central Iowa, stayed briefly, and settled only slightly south on a nice big farm at Pilot Mound Township in Boone County. She was in a Sunday School class at the local Methodist Church, and her father studied Methodism and was licensed to preach.

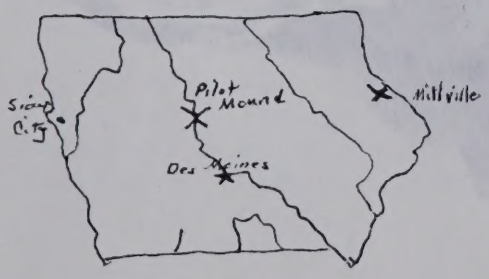
On 16 Sep 1867, when she was a month short of her 18th birthday, Sarah Jane married the popular 24-year old minister of the church they attended-- the Rev. John Wesley White, born 30 Nov. 1843 near Millville, Clayton County, Iowa. The wedding was at the bride's home, performed by a Rev. E. H. Hessig*. Undoubtedly her parents were delighted that she had chosen a husband of such undeniably good character, but one wonders whether she realized the difficult life that awaited her as the wife of an evangelistically inclined Free Methodist minister in a more isolated community, who was often sent by church headquarters on difficult missions.

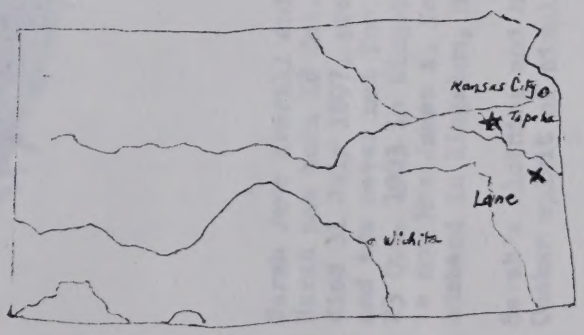
John Wesley's father was Barney White, born 1815 in New York State, and his deceased mother was Susan (Griffith) White, born 1827 in Kentucky. From this it can be seen that the couple had something in common. Her father, born in Indiana, had New York parents, and her mother was born in Virginia. His father was born in New York and his mother in Kentucky; thus, both mothers were southerners and both fathers had New York backgrounds.

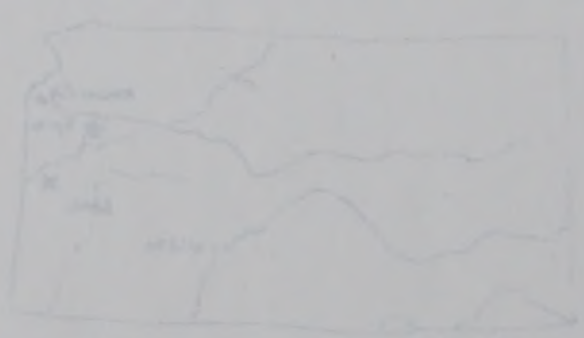
Among those in attendance at the wedding were the bride's parents and the groom's father and new stepmother, Maria (Hubanks) White.

The temptation now, especially since the writer remembers the White family so well, is to go into too much detail about Rev. John Wesley White, and about the White children and grandchildren. That would be out of place here, because this is the Averill Family story. The Whites should be dealt with in their own story. Therefore, an attempt will be made to limit this to conditions or events affecting the life of Sarah Jane Averill White.

*Family Bible Records







Sarah Jane Averill and her granddaughter Ada White. Sarah was born 18 Oct. 1849 in McDonough Co., Ill., died 31 July 1897, probably Gentry Co., Mo. Sarah and Ada never met for Ada was born 6 years later on 23 Oct. 1903 in Kingston Twp., Caldwell Co., Mo. She is now Mrs James A. Yoakum Sr. and resides with her husband in Kingston, Mo.

Sarah's clothing and hair style seem to reflect the Quaker spirit of simplicity.

Ada's dress may have been hand-sewn by her Grandmother Dunn who was a professional seamstress. In the upper left of Ada's photo are pen lines where someone has shaded out part of a face. This photo by Hare, Hamilton, Mo.

Her photo shows a pleasant, sincere-looking young woman with a severe pulled-back hairdo and a plain dark Quaker-like dress. But one day while looking at her photo, I accidentally put my finger over her hair, and was surprised to see a pretty face. Grandpa spoke lovingly of her, and she seems to have been kind, gentle, and to have worked very hard to care for her children. She was much more than a good helpmate to her husband; she carried on many of the farm duties while he was away preaching, and there was never enough money.

In late spring, after the September wedding, the family group set out again for homesteads in a new wilderness--this time not in any wide river or forest, but on the treeless, rich, fertile plains of eastern Kansas where the prairie grasses could reach high as a man's head and were splashed with wildflowers and sunflowers. When they first got there, there were still bears, deer, wolves, and an abundance of small, furry animals, also prairie chickens and bob-whites, though the larger animals left the area with encroaching settlement.

The group which went to Kansas included the Averills, their good friends the Husseys and other friends, and not only John and Sarah Jane White, but also his father, Barney White, with his pregnant young wife Maria and three little ones. Barney White showed up on the 1870 Kansas census, but by 1880 he was back in Wisconsin, where the census indicates most of his children were born, so he probably did not stay long at all in Kansas. All of these people settled down on farms, including the ministers, for back in those days ministers were expected to have more than one way to earn a living.

I do remember Great Grandpa John Wesley White, and have a precious little snapshot of him holding my baby sister Billie, when he was in his 80's. There I am, age three, standing beside him and squinting in the strong sunshine. He died when I was about six. Since my memories of him are those of a tiny child, I rely on the things my mother, his grand-daughter, Ada (White) Yoakum, relates about him. She says he had an outgoing personality and enjoyed people. He was a natural storyteller who could describe almost anything in such an engrossing manner that you felt you were part of the action, or could just visualize things you would never see, as he described them. He described an electric light show that was put on back when electricity had not yet become common, to her and her brother, Ben, so vividly that they felt they were right there. She said that in years to come they finally saw that same demonstration and thought the way he told about it was even better than the real thing. He also told them a spooky halloween story about worms and a dead man that really had them going.

People must have enjoyed Great Grandfather's sermons, and he also had a way of bringing people of differing views together in harmony--which was a mixed blessing for his wife and children, for the Church was always sending him on difficult missions, or to straighten

Rev. John Wesley White (age 83) and his great grand-daughters, Norma (age 3) and infant Billie Gene Hansen. Photo taken late in 1926.

out disharmony or even finances in congregations which were not doing so well. He truly enjoyed such challenges, and felt privileged at having been chosen by the Lord to do his work--but it did mean frequent absences from his family while he was away on some missions, and later moves to new congregations.

That was not what Sarah Jane probably expected. When they first moved to Kansas, she and John Wesley were set up with a nice small farm near her parents, and all the Averill men were dedicated family men and prosperous, hardworking farmers. Mamma thinks perhaps she may have been reluctant, at first, to live the more unsettled life that came from being married to an evangelical preacher, but she was devout and good natured, feeling she was serving the Lord by helping her husband.

At first they lived mostly near Lane, Miami County, Kansas, where Grandpa and the nine other children were born. Grandpa idolized his mother, and often told me how kind and gentle she was, and about how hard she worked. In her last years she must have felt pretty weak from "consumption." Family tradition is that toward the end she had been very tired and resting a lot. Though it was late summer, the weather turned "nippy" and she became worried about the animals, got up, and went outside to tend to them. She became chilled, which precipitated her death. (Later on, an older married son remarked that he felt his younger brothers who were still living at home should have looked after the livestock, since presumably they were in the house. Such a generalization might be unfair, since we do not know the circumstances, and she was already fatally ill.)

Sarah Jane (Averill) White died of tuberculosis near Albany, Gentry County, Missouri, on 31 July 1897, age notquite 46. She left behind nine children, the youngest being 7-year old Aunt Ada, for whom Mamma was named. After her mother's death the eldest daughter, Aunt Stella, took charge of running the house. She never married, and died in 1908. On 9 Dec 1909, Great Grandfather married a lady named Kate Meade, who may not have lived many years. There were no children of that marriage. He died 1 July 1929 in Centerville, Appaloosa County, Iowa, at the home of a son.

Children of John Wesley and Sarah Jane (Averill) White: (Surname:White)

+William Wesley	b. 1 Jan 1869	m. 15 Mar 1898 Mary Lydia Dunn, d. 1963
Walter Chancellor	17 Oct 1870	disappeared out west
Estelle Jane"Stella"	21 Aug 1872	unmarried, d. 29 Mar 1908
Edgar Barney	29 May 1874	infant d. 30 Jan 1875
Charles Ellsworth	11 Mar 1876	
Martha Susan "Mattie"	29 Jan 1878	m. 1-3 Feb 1897 Albert Walters 2-1 Jul 1911 Geo. H Rand, d.30 Apr 1956
Elmer Adelbert	14 Apr 1880	Frances Bryant
Edward Monroe	16 Jun 1883	
John Wesley	7 Aug 1886	11 Jul 1907 Daisy Wright, d.23 Mar 1967
Mary Ada"Ada"	2 Mar 1890	1-13 Jul 1907 2-13 Jul 1913 Roy Simpson, d.2 Dec1916

William Wesley White[8] (Sarah Jane Averill[7] Norman[6] Philo[5] Moses[4] Isaac[3] William[2] William[1]) the 8th generation in America through his mother's Averill line, was born 1 Jan 1869, the first New Years Day the family was in Kansas. But this is not the White Family story, so an attempt will be made to include only those things in his life that would have had some bearing on that of his mother, the last Averill in this true tale; and also to put events in historical perspective.

This was right after the Civil War, and the clothing they wore was what you see in old Western movies. They lived 40 miles southeast of Kansas City and 40 miles southwest of Topeka. That same year the first railroad ever built in Kansas connected those two points, making cattle drives to Topeka profitable, but the railroads soon went further west and so did the cattle towns. Wild Bill Hickok, from Grant County, Wisconsin (where Barney White lived) was then a marshall in Western Kansas. Our family was in Eastern Kansas, where the Whites drank spirits not at all and the Averills seldom, so the saloon life does not apply. This was the prairie, not sage brush country. Transportation was by wagon, buggy, horseback, or shanks-pony. Stagecoaches were later on. (Grandpa never did learn to drive a car, though he wanted to.)

Everyone has heard of ministers' sons who rebel, and there was a big generation gap here, with the father having a somewhat Puritanical idea that children were the property of the parent, with all wages going to support the entire family. The son wanted a nestegg to start his own farm and said that his father should be less charitable with his church and more so toward his own family. I still remember Grandpa saying, "Charity begins at home." Both of them were kind, hardworking, intelligent, good men. They did love and respect each other but there certainly was a difference of opinion. Grandpa, who loved to read, said his own education was cut short by having to be hired out as a boy to work on a farm with his earnings going to support his younger brothers and sisters. He wanted me to be a school teacher; though I did not become one, he did instill in me the value of a good education.

A family story, passed down, illustrates the problem: Sugar was a scarce item in rural Kansas when grandpa was a boy. People grew cane and boiled it down to make molasses to sweeten their food. Men usually did the hard part, with the help of their families, because of the big fires and heavy equipment. Cane resembles corn, and the stalks in that rich soil grew very high. The stalks were cut with machetes, leaves sliced off and canes whacked into sections and crushed to release the sap--not a delicate operation. One year Great Grandfather was late in returning from a preaching trip, so Sarah Jane and the bigger little boys laboriously harvested the cane so it would be all ready for him to finish when he got home. He was still longer delayed preaching, and the canes spoiled. The family had nothing sweet to eat that winter.

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